

VIDEO 12:
SSTS RESOURCES FOR LOCAL
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS
-- MPCA SSTS ADMINISTRATIVE
TRAINING

Nick Haig
and
Barb McCarthy

2013

Introduction

Basic Administrative Information; Talk 12 of 13

Presenters: Nick Haig and Barb McCarthy

General Topic – Resources for Local SSTS Program
Administrators

Learning Outcomes

- Obtain a general understanding of sources of information on the web at the state and national pertaining to septic systems.

Introduction

There are many resources available to assist local program administrators with their SSTS Program management responsibilities:

- MPCA Staff, SSTS Program Website, and SSTS Search Tool
- University of Minnesota's Onsite Sewage Treatment Program
- Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- National Environmental Services Center
- Additional organizations and associations
- Other local SSTS Programs

RESOURCES FOR SSTS ADMINISTRATORS

MPCA SSTS Staff



SSTS Program Management

Lisa Thorvig – *Municipal Division Director*

- Jim Ziegler – *SSTS Section Manager*
 - Gene Soderbeck – *SSTS Policy and Rules Supervisor*
 - Ron Swenson – *SSTS Enforcement (Field Staff) Supervisor*
 - Charlie Thompson- *Certification and Training Supervisor*



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Field Staff

Ron Swenson- *Supervisor*

- Pat Shelito - *Brainerd*
- Matt Moon - *Marshall*
- Carol Decker – *Detroit Lakes*
- Steve Oscarson – *Rochester*
- Vacant - *Metro*




Policy and Rule

Gene Soderbeck – Supervisor

- Corey Hower – Rochester (Tank Registration)
- Barb McCarthy - Duluth
- Gretchen Sabel – St. Paul
- Mark Wespetal – St. Paul

Minnesota Rules
Chapters 7080 through 7083

Subsurface Sewage Treatment
Systems Program

 Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency

Extracted from Minnesota Rules 2011
including revisions adopted through March 2011


Text prepared by the University of Minnesota
and is not the official version compiled by the
Office of the Revisor of Statutes

The official rule language for
Minnesota Rules chs. 7080, 7081, 7082 and 7083
can be found at the Revisor's website at
<http://www.revisor.state.mn.us/>

Certification and training

Charlie Thompson – Supervisor

- Nick Haig – St. Paul
- Mary Osborn – St. Paul
- Jane Seaver – St. Paul
- Brenda Tischler – St. Paul

 Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency
100 University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155-4754

**SSTS Intermediate Designer
and Inspector Task Analysis**
Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program
Oct. Type Task Analysis

Intermediate Designer & Inspector Task Analysis	
1	Review Applicant as an Intermediate Designer and/or Inspector
1.A	Complete Training
1.B	Pass Certification Exam
1.C	Apply for Certification
1.D	Complete Certification Education
1.E	Obtain Intermediate Design and/or Inspector Business License
1.F	Complete Minnesota Tax Information
1.G	Communicate with Client about Scope/Preferences
1.H	Control Legal Liability of Assessment
1.H.1	Determine legal jurisdiction of property, including Township, Range, and Section
1.H.2	Determine property lines, easements, and presence of existing improvements
1.H.3	Determine location and status of proposed or existing water supply wells and pipes in vicinity
1.H.4	Determine existing high water table and/or floodplain encroachment
1.H.5	Determine flooding or Group of Floodings (FEMA 1:500 grid)
1.H.6	Determine whether "Other Floodings" (1:100 grid)
1.H.7	Determine Anticipated Effluent Concentrations of BOD, TSS, & P2O
1.H.8	Assess areas suitable for various, non-domestic, non-durable, not suitable for discharge into soil, habitats
1.H.9	Identify challenging waste streams (solids to treat)
1.H.10	Determine necessity for source segregation due to waste characteristics
1.H.11	Complete Preliminary Site Report
1.H.12	Determine appropriate wetlands
1.H.13	Determine soil characteristics (Soil Web Soil Survey)
1.H.14	Complete identification to specific non-point source management activities
1.H.15	Assess Risk Based on Management Site Report
1.I	Complete Field Evaluation
1.I.1	Locate Utilities
1.I.2	Identify septic
1.I.3	Identify lot lines to establish of owner or local unit of government
1.I.4	Identify easements, setbacks, & encroachments
1.I.5	Investigate site for risk and adjustment risks
1.I.6	Identify Critical Flow Lines (Concentrations for critical and Regulated Sites)
1.I.7	Determine slope, vegetation, disturbed or compacted soils, soil potential, & geomorphic characteristics
1.I.8	Determine consistency of soil observations to local soil survey (USDA)
1.I.9	Perform acceptable soil observation method to describe soil texture, structure, consistency, color, and other characteristics pertinent to the permeability of the soil at treatment of sewage
1.I.10	Identify presence of and proportion of rock fragments in soil profile
1.I.11	Determine penetration testing to separate and flow acceptable procedures to complete penetration tests; if proper depth
1.I.12	Determine lining liner
1.I.13	Determine absorption area (soil hydraulic loading rate & absorption area size)
1.I.14	Assess Strength
1.I.15	Measure water strength in acceptable manner to confirm domestic waste strength
1.I.16	Provide Flow Comparison & Estimate
1.I.17	Complete Field Evaluation Report

SSTS SEARCH Licensed Business Certified Individual

Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Licensed Business & Certified Individual Search

Questions? Please contact the SSTS Licensing & Certification Coordinator by email at ssts-info_pca@state.mn.us or call 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864

[SSTS Program Home](#)

License Number:

Business Name:

City:

County:

Specialty Area:

Maintainer

Installer

Service Provider

Inspector

Designer

Advanced Designer

Advanced Inspector

Who to call

Minnesota's Subsurface Sewage Treatment ...

Homeowner Information

SSTS Search

Septic System Tank Installation Fee

Businesses with SSTS, Class V, Small Communities and Cluster Systems

SSTS Reports, Legislation, Research and Enforcement Action

SSTS financial assistance

SSTS Technical Advisory Panel

SSTS Staff — Who to Call

SSTS Administrative Training

SSTS Related Links

SSTS Design and Installation Best Practices

SSTS Staff

SSTS requirements are adopted and enforced locally. Requests for assistance or complaints should first be directed to the local unit of government (County, City, Township).

- [County Offices](#)
- [City Offices](#)
- [Township Offices](#)
- [MPCA Contacts](#)
- [University of Minn. OSTP Contacts](#)
- [Minn. UIC Class V Inspectors](#)

SSTS Advisory Committee

The SSTS Advisory Committee is a group of professionals and others interested in the SSTS industry who advise MPCA on matters relating to MN Rule Chapters 7080-7083 and administration of the SSTS program.

- [SSTS Advisory Committee - 7083 Requirements](#)

Members commit to a four-year term and meetings are held semi-annually or more frequently as needed.

- [Membership, Meetings, Committee Information](#)

Additional Links

SSTS Search

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Home Air Water Waste Regulations Living Green Quick Links Data About MPCA

Water Types and Programs Permits and Rules Monitoring and Reporting Publications Training Pollution Prevention

Water > Water Types and Programs > Wastewater > Minnesota's Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Program (SSTS)

Minnesota's Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Program (SSTS)

IN THIS SECTION:
 Current SSTS Rules, Laws, Statutes, Regulations and Ordinances
 SSTS Rule, Statute and Law MPCA
 SSTS Business Licensing Individual Certification and Enforcement
 SSTS and SSTS Technical and Compliance Criteria
 Sludge Removal and Disposal
 Revised Registration Process for Treatment Products, Distribution Hoses and Sewage Tanks
 Sewage Tanks Product Registration
 Renewal of SSTS Proprietary Products
 SSTS Local Units of Government
 SSTS Practitioner and Homeowner Information

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), commonly known as septic systems, are regulated by Minnesota Statutes 115.52 and 115.55.

These regulations detail:

1. Minimum technical standards for individual and multi-RCA SSTS (Chapter 7080 and 7083);
2. A framework for local administration of SSTS programs (Chapter 7082) and;
3. Statewide licensing and certification of SSTS professionals, SSTS product review and registration, and establishment of the SSTS Advisory Committee (Chapter 7083).

Program Goals
 The goal of the SSTS program is to protect the public health and the environment through adequate disposal and treatment of domestic sewage from dwellings or other establishments generating volumes less than 10,000 gallons per day.

Methods employed by MPCA towards accomplishing these goals are:

1. Periodic revisions to Minnesota's SSTS code (MN Rules Chapters 7080, 7082, 7083, 7084, 7085);
2. Ongoing assistance in interpreting Minnesota's SSTS code; and
3. Administering the statewide SSTS Certification and Licensing Program
 - [10-Year Plan to Upgrade and Maintain Minnesota's On-site SSTS Treatment Systems - A Report to the Minnesota Legislature, February 2004 \(file size: 2.1 MB\)](#)

SSTS Staff
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- [County Offices](#)
- [City Offices](#)

RELATED LINKS:

- MPCA
 - MPCA lab registration for NPDES permit holders and water quality assistance
 - Wastewater Pretreatment Final Rules
 - Frequently Asked Questions about Wastewater Operator Certification
 - Wastewater Operator Training Seminars
- External
 - Metropolitan Council — Sanitary Sewer (Ponds)
 - Minn. Department of Natural Resources — Water
 - Minnesota.gov — Water
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — Office of Water

CONNECT WITH US

MPCA SSTS Website



www.pca.state.mn.us/ssts

MPCA SSTS Website



- Rules, Statutes, and Ordinances
- Business Licensing & Certification
 - ssts-info.pca@state.mn.us
 - SSTS Search
- Technical Information & Guidance
- Septage Management
- Registered Products
- Local Units Government
- Homeowner information

MPCA SSTS Website

- Small community & cluster systems
- General and Legislative Reports
- Research & Enforcement
- Financial Assistance
- Administrative LGU Sessions
- GovDelivery
 - SSTS newsletter – sign up

RESOURCES FOR SSTS ADMINISTRATORS

The University of Minnesota's
Onsite Sewage Treatment Program (OSTP)

OSTP Expertise

- Required Training
- Continuing Education
- Research
- Outreach
- Technical Assistance

http://septic.umn.edu

Minnesota Rules
Chapters 7080 through 7083

Subsurface Sewage Treatment
Systems Program

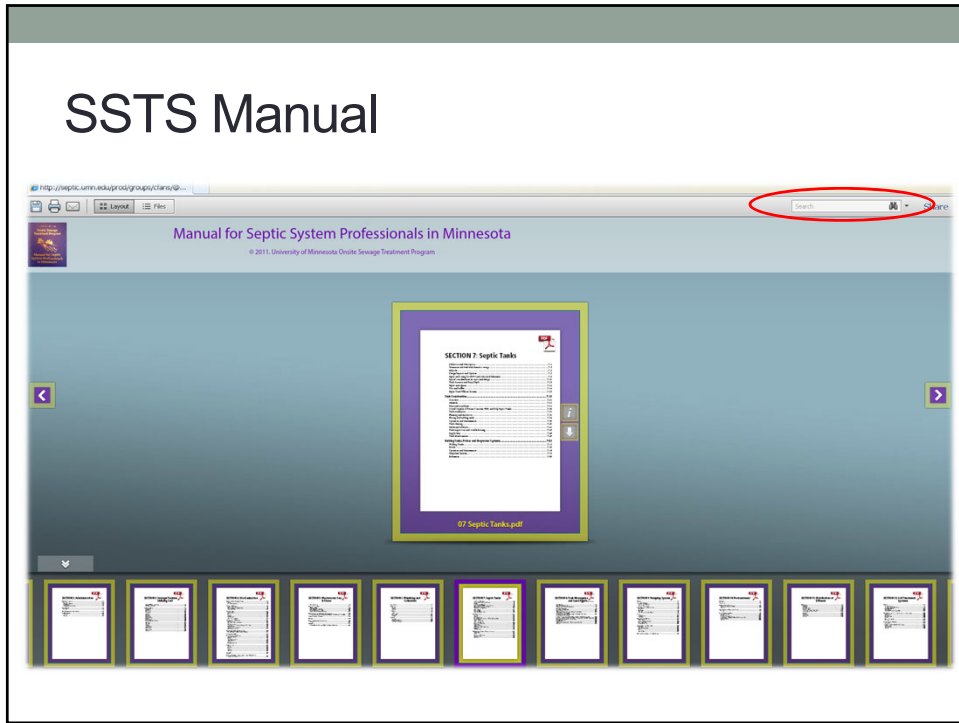
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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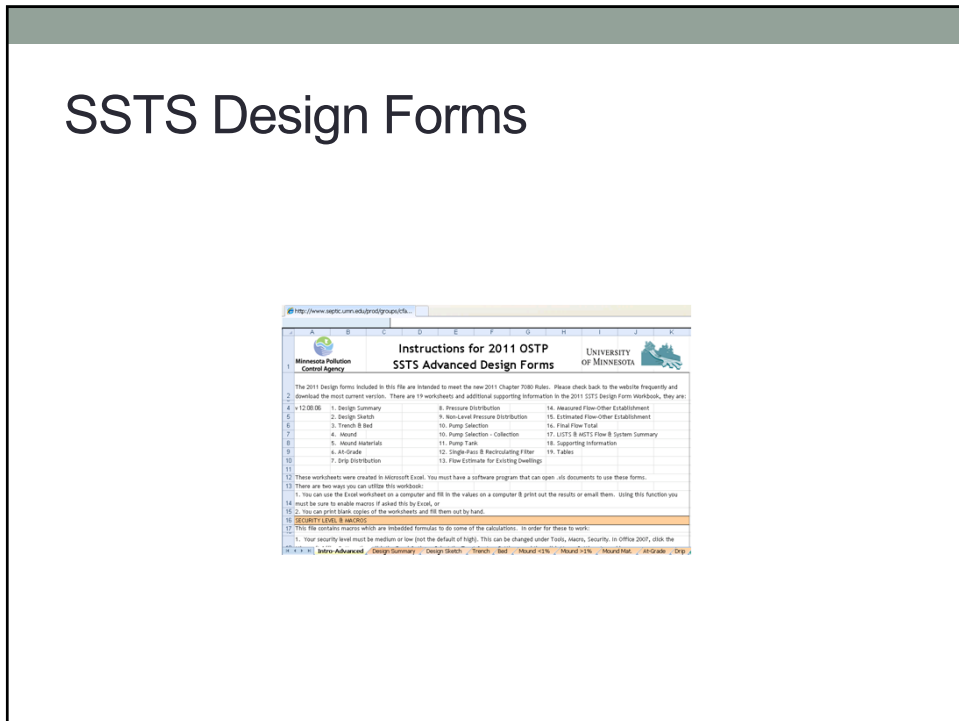
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SSTS Manual



SSTS Design Forms



RESOURCES FOR SSTS ADMINISTRATORS

Other Resources

<http://mowa-mn.com/>

Search this website... **SEARCH**

MOWA
minnesota onsite wastewater association

Home Applications & Renewals Consumer Resources Member Resources Scholarships

Board of Directors Little Digger Newsletter Calendar of Events Contact Form Legislative Action



The Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association (MOWA) represents those individuals and companies in Minnesota whose business is involved in designing, constructing or providing maintenance and repair service for onsite sewage treatment systems, commonly known as septic systems. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) currently estimates that there are 491,000+ individual sewage treatment systems (SSTS) in Minnesota. Founded in 1975, MOWA has over 400 members and is a non-profit business association whose primary objective is the betterment of public health through sound principles and procedures.

Learn More About MOWA

URGENT ALERT: Governor Dayton Signs Emergency Executive Order on Load-Limit

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic>

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

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You are here: [Water](#) » [Water Infrastructure](#) » [Septic \(Onsite / Decentralized\) Systems](#) » [SepticSmart Home](#)

SepticSmart Home

Welcome to SepticSmart
Homeowners, learn the ins and outs of your septic system.

[Home](#) [The Basics](#) [Why Maintain?](#) [Proper Care](#) [Resources](#)

Welcome to SepticSmart!

Did you know that one-quarter of all U.S. homes have septic systems? Yours may be one of them. If you're not properly maintaining your septic system, you're not

Outreach Campaign

Check out the **SepticSmart Outreach Toolkit!**

Government officials, industry professionals.

<http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/>

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National Environmental Services Center
NESC Assistance. Solutions. Knowledge.
West Virginia University NRECE

NEW!

- New Issue of *On Tap* Now Available
- SORA Releases Nutrient Regulations Survey Results
- RDUS Rates Available
- New Issue of *Pipeline* Available

Google Search

The National Environmental Services Center

Assistance. Solutions. Knowledge.

For more than 30 years, the National Environmental Services Center (NESC) has helped thousands of small, rural communities with their drinking water, wastewater, environmental training, infrastructure resilience, and utility management needs--leading them to solutions to the problems they face.

Our staff of environmental specialists, engineers, certified operators, writers, editors, and trainers understands the latest technologies, regulations

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On Tap

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SUMMARY

Summary

- The MPCA's website has a wealth of SSTS-related information available to administrators of local SSTS programs.
- The SSTS Search tool is simple to use to determine if a SSTS business is properly licensed.
- The U of M OSTP's website is an important source of SSTS information and that's where SSTS workshop information is posted.
- There are local, state and national organizations that have SSTS information and opportunities to network with other practitioners in the industry.