

VIDEO 10: BASIC SEPTIC SYSTEM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE - MPCA SSTS ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING

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Introduction

Basic Administrative Information

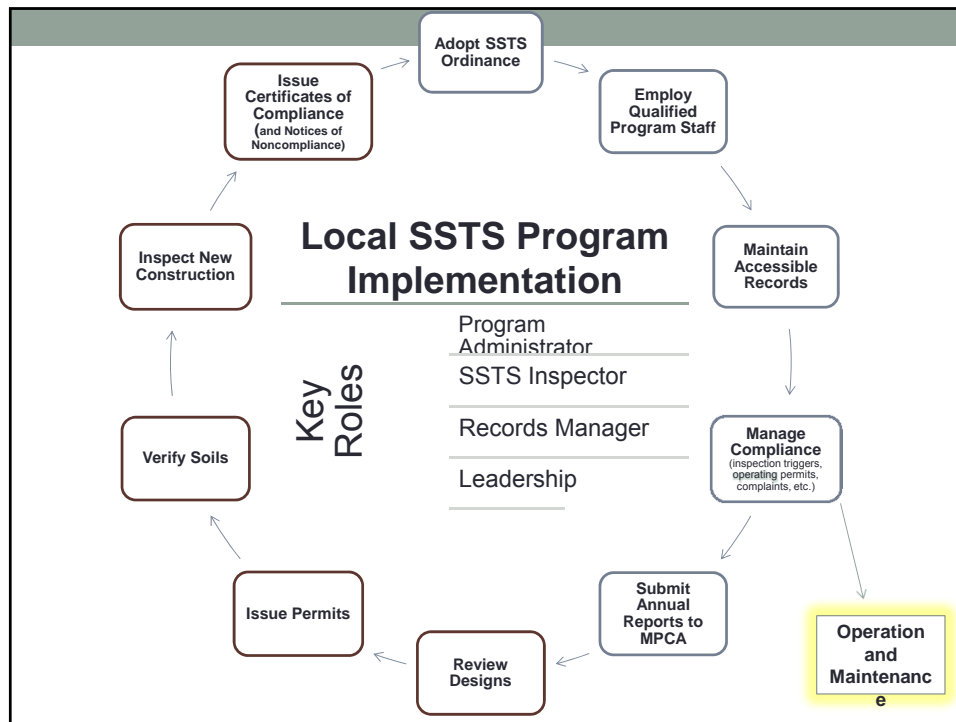
Talk 10 of 13

Presenters: Barb McCarthy and Nick Haig

General Topic – Basic Septic System Operation and Maintenance

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the need for proper system operation by the owner
- Understand that septic systems need regular maintenance to be most effective



Operation and maintenance

- All septic systems need to be operated properly.
- All systems need to be pumped routinely to remove solids from sewage tanks.
- Septic systems are not trash cans.
- Owners are responsible for their septic systems.
- All septic systems need some level of maintenance; what is required depends on the system.



Operation and maintenance

- The following video from St. Louis County describes the proper operation and maintenance of septic systems.
- The information in this video applies to all areas of Minnesota, even though St. Louis County is the only county mentioned.
- This video was funded through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, NOAA.
- <http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/LANDPROPERTY/BuildingZoning/SepticSystems/SepticSystemVideos.aspx>

Video

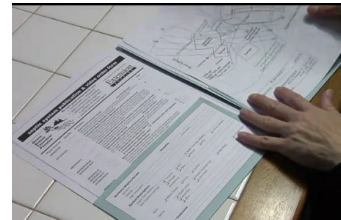
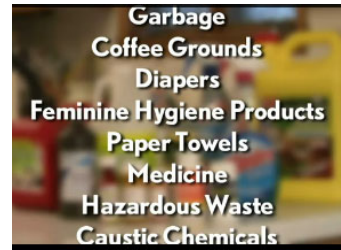
Basic septic system operation and maintenance

What this video showed

Owners are responsible for their septic systems

- Proper operation by owner
 - need basic understanding of SSTS
 - use water wisely
 - not designed for garbage
 - protect treatment area
 - protect expansion area

- Proper maintenance by owner
 - Management Plan
 - Operating Permit



SUMMARY

Summary

- All septic systems need to be maintained.
- The system owner is responsible to see that their SSTS is properly operated and maintained.
- Septic systems are not trash cans; they are a biological waste treatment system that need proper operation and maintenance.
- System owners can learn how to take care of their septic systems.