

SSTS Program Administrative Training Videos Supplement

Background and purpose

In 2008, numerous significant updates were made to subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS) rules in Minnesota. One of the updates came in the form of 7082.0040 subp. 4 A (2), which requires every local government unit (LGU) to have “*at least one person who is employed by the local unit of government who has received accredited training on administration of local SSTS programs.*” As a result, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provided these administrative training videos in 2013 as a way for LGUs to satisfy the requirement. Overall, the videos remain a great resource for LGUs who are trying to learn how to administer an SSTS ordinance and permitting program in addition to satisfying 7082.0040 subp. 4 A (2). However, the videos contain dated references and a few inaccuracies. Therefore, the MPCA presents this supplemental document to assist those watching the videos.

All videos

- Many videos contain outdated statistics from 2012 about the state of the SSTS industry in Minnesota. For updated information, please [contact the MPCA](#) or consult the [SSTS Annual Report](#).
- All videos and this supplementary document can be found here: pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/ssts-administrator-training

Video 1

- In this video (2:50), the presenter indicates that LGUs ensure that land application of septage occurs properly. While this may be true for a few LGUs, the majority of LGUs do not have land application regulations. Regardless, the MPCA inspects SSTS maintainers throughout the state.

Video 2

- In this video (9:00), the presenter indicates that the MPCA focuses its enforcement on license violations and straight pipes. While the MPCA does provide enforcement for license violations and straight pipes, it also provides enforcement for many other types of infractions, including poor quality of work. Please contact [MPCA compliance and enforcement staff](#) for more information.
- In this video (11:30), the presenter mentions Unsewered Areas. Those areas are now called Areas and Communities with SSTS Concerns.
- In this video (15:35), the presenter mentions SSTS funding resources from 2013. For current funding resources, please consult the MPCA’s [SSTS Financial Assistance page](#) or [contact the MPCA](#).

Video 3

- The second slide (1:00) contains an outdated image of the printed rule book. It has been updated since then and is now blue. Also, the way the slide is organized, it may give the viewer the impression that 7080-7083 stopped in 2012. However, 7080-7083 are still in effect.
- In this video (7:20), the presenter mentions the effluent strength limitations for residential strength waste, specifically BOD, TSS, and FOG. However, 7080.2150 subp. 3 (K) also establishes a limit for CBOD5.

- In this video (8:20), the presenter states that tanks used in Minnesota must be registered. This is the most popular option, but 7080.1900 also indicates that tanks “*approved by a licensed professional engineer and approved by the local unit of government*” can be used.
- In this video (9:15), the presenter lists the distribution media products as of 2013. For a current list, please consult the MPCA’s [SSTS Product Registration page](#) or [contact the MPCA](#).

Video 4

- In this video provided by St. Louis County (6:30), it is indicated that an operating permit is required for type III SSTS. While this may be true in St. Louis County, it is not required by state rule.
- In this video provided by St. Louis County (6:45), it is indicated that systems located in rapidly permeable soils are type II SSTS. At the time of the video, that was true. However, 7080.2260 has since been repealed.
- In this video provided by St. Louis County (7:10), it is indicated that a constructed wetland is a type IV SSTS. However, a constructed wetland is a type V SSTS.

Video 5

- In this video (6:00 & 8:40), prices of University of Minnesota courses are listed for 2013. For current prices, please consult the [University’s website](#).
- In this video (6:00), the courses needed to become an Intermediate and Advanced Inspector are listed. While the courses listed are accurate, those wishing to become an Intermediate or Advanced Inspector must also attend the Service Provider course and pass the Service Provider exam.

Video 6

- In this video (2:35), the presenter mentions an Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) model ordinance. The model ordinance is no longer available on the MPCA website because it contained inaccuracies and inconsistencies. The slide also instructs the viewer to submit their ordinance proposals to Gretchen Sabel, who has since retired. Please contact your [MPCA compliance and enforcement staff](#) if your city/township/county is proposing SSTS ordinance amendments or a new SSTS ordinance.
- In this video (9:30), the presenter indicates that Intermediate Inspectors and Intermediate Designers are limited to type I-IV SSTS. However, Intermediate Inspectors and Intermediate Designers are also allowed to inspect and design type V SSTS.
- In this video (11:25), the presenter mentions an advanced inspector grant. This grant is no longer available.

Video 7

- In this video (1:30), an image of an outdated compliance inspection form is on the slide. The current form version is available on the [MPCA’s SSTS Forms and Facts Sheets website](#).
- In this video (9:40), data collection for the Annual Report is described. In 2013, this was accomplished through spreadsheets and email. However, the data collection is now accomplished through a survey link that is emailed to every LGU.

Video 8

- In this video (3:20), the concept of writing an operating permit is introduced. The way it is presented could lead one to think that an inspector who is not affiliated with the LGU is responsible for writing the operating permit, but that is inaccurate.

Video 9

- In this video (1:30), LGU soil verifications are discussed. While the information is accurate, it can be a challenging and confusing topic. If you are new to the industry, please [contact the MPCA](#) to gain a better understanding of what an LGU **must do** for soil verifications (infield verification of periodically saturated soil or bedrock) and what an LGU **might choose to do** (full soil observation log along with the infield verification of periodically saturated soil or bedrock).

Video 10

- See clarifications identified under video #4.

Video 11

- In this video (1:20), the number of licensed professionals in Minnesota is provided as of 2013. License status can fluctuate daily due to a variety of factors. Please consult the [MPCA's Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Licensed Business and Certified Individual Search](#) for the most current information.
- In this video (2:00), the MPCA's SSTS compliance and enforcement contacts are displayed from 2013. For current contacts, please visit the [MPCA's website](#).
- In this video (4:10), enforcement statistics are provided. For current information, please contact your [MPCA compliance and enforcement staff](#) or visit the [MPCA's Compliance and Enforcement website](#).
- In this video (6:00), straight pipe enforcement information is provided. For current information, please contact your [MPCA compliance and enforcement staff](#).
- In this video (9:20), the presenter states that the MPCA does not enforce on SSTS professionals for poor quality of work. While that was true at the time of the video, the MPCA does issue enforcement actions for poor quality of work now. Please contact your [MPCA compliance and enforcement staff](#) for more information or if you would like to file a complaint about an SSTS professional.

Video 12

- In this video (5:50), the presenter references a "restricted" certification status. The current term is "apprentice."
- This video contains references to previous MPCA staff, the previous MPCA website, and the 2013 version of 7080-7083. Links to current MPCA staff, the current MPCA website, and the current version of 7080-7083 are listed below.
 - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/ssts-staff-at-the-mPCA>
 - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/septic-systems>
 - <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7080/>
 - <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7081/>
 - <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/7082/>
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