



Proposed MPCA Policy Changes

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Policy Bill proposes modifications to several technical and small policy changes.

Summary of proposed changes

Increases recycled content of copy paper (Section 1)

The proposal updates copy-paper purchase requirements for public entities to the national and industry standard of 30% post-consumer recycled content.

Simplifies for septic professionals building sewer regulations (Sec. 2, 3, 17)

The proposal defines the pipe that connects a building to a septic system (building sewer) as both plumbing and septic components. This allows septic professionals to work through the MPCA for the administration of their septic license and pipelayer registration, instead of through two agencies. It allows septic professionals to legally design building sewers connected to a septic system, submit plans to the appropriate plumbing authority (when necessary), and inspect building sewers connected to a septic system.

It also makes changes for the MPCA to incorporate the plumbing code's bonding requirements into the septic system bond requirements. The proposal allows the MPCA to use the expedited rulemaking process to make the necessary rule changes.

Updates recycling definitions (Sec. 4-8, 11, 16, 18)

In 2014 the Legislature made a change to the definition of recycling by removing "reuse" from it. This proposal clarifies the change made in 2014 by creating a definition of reuse separate from "recycling." It also updates the definition of recycling in other parts of state law to match the 2014 change.

Requires reporting of mixed municipal solid waste and recycled materials (Sec. 9, 10)

The proposal requires collectors of mixed municipal solid waste or recyclable materials to provide annual reports on the quantities collected (by commercial sector and residential sector), where the waste was delivered, and from which county the waste originated. This change will provide additional information on where waste is delivered and streamline the reporting that haulers currently do by standardizing the data collected by all haulers.

Makes vapor mitigation systems eligible for the Harmful Substance Compensation Program (Sec. 12)

This proposal adds residential vapor-intrusion mitigation systems as an eligible expense for reimbursement in the Harmful Substances Compensation Fund. It would enable the agency to provide an option for homeowners to have these systems installed on their own timelines and with contractors of their choosing. The agency would still be able to install vapor systems for those homeowners choosing to have the installations done by the state.

Makes drinking water treatment facilities eligible for Point Source Implementation Grants (Sec. 13-15)

The proposed change will expand grant eligibility to municipal drinking water infrastructure projects that are needed to meet more stringent water discharge standards because of impairment concerns. Applicants will continue to be ranked on the MPCA's Project Priority List to ensure needs are being met in a cost-effective manner.

For more information

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