

August 27, 2018

RE: Volunteer Change to the list of registered Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Sewage Tanks

Dear Sewage Tank Manufacturers:

This letter is being sent to all sewage tank manufacturers that have sewage tanks registered for use in Minnesota. Recently the Agency has been receiving concerns by various Local Units of Government (LGUs) and Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) licensed professionals on how the tank registration list addresses the specific use for each tank installed. More specifically, tanks are listed and labeled individually for each use. This is causing difficulty in instances where the use of the tanks are anticipated to change over time (e.g. a holding tank is to be installed now, but would like to upgrade to a full system at a later time). Ultimately, LGUs and SSTS licensed professionals would like the registration list to include a list of tanks identical in design, which can be used for different uses. This would allow them to identify whether tanks would meet the applicable requirements if the system were to change uses in the future.

Currently, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) maintains a tank registration list that indicates a specific use for each tank registered. This allows LGUs to conveniently verify each tank installed meets the requirements of Minn. R. 7080.1900 – 7080.2030 for each application. The current registration process requires tank manufacturers to indicate the specific use for each tank model registered.

Through internal discussions and discussions with the tank manufactures at the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association (MOWA) convention, the MPCA has decided to offer a voluntary tank registration change for those manufactures that wish to make modifications to their tank registration list. Manufacturers will now be allowed to register the same model tank for multiple uses (e.g. septic, pump, and holding). The goal for the MPCA is to make this change to better suit the needs of the industry and to create little or no extra work for the tank manufactures.

For those manufactures that feel the current tank model registration list is appropriate for their business and do not wish to make any changes, they can ignore this letter and continue to operate as usual with no needed paperwork or changes. Those manufactures that wish to make a change to their current tank model registration can do so by filling out the "SSTS existing registered sewage tank modification form". To simplify the process, a short form was created to allow manufacturers to specify the changes they wish to make on their existing registered tanks. This form can be filled out at the end of the year when the "SSTS annual watertight testing certification form" are submitted.

There will be no additional drawings or technical information needed, just the submittal of the form stating your intentions for the existing tanks you have registered that are identical and you wish to list for multiple uses. If you have any new tank registrations for tanks not currently on the list, those will be done through the normal process and the normal application.

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The MPCA's online list of registered SSTS Sewage Tanks will be modified to show the tanks are authorized for multiple applications. This change may take some time to implement due to the quantity of tanks registered and the time needed for manufacturers to request the change. The goal would be to finish the changes by the end of the year and have this new registration list available by April 2019.

In the interim, the MPCA will advise LGUs and SSTS licensed professionals to contact tank manufacturers and verify tanks are identical before authorizing their use if different from how the tank is labeled.

Please contact me at 507-206-2603 or corey.hower@state.mn.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey J. Hower". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Corey J. Hower
Engineer
Municipal Division

CJH:jw

Enclosures: SSTS existing registered sewage tank modification form