Welcome Back!
The ISTS Report has not been published for quite some time due to major agency reorganization and an extremely heavy workload. NOTE: Only one copy of this report is being sent to each business or LGU. Please read and route to your co-workers! Thanks.

Staff Changes
As many of you are aware the agency has reorganized into districts in an attempt to better serve you. The current ISTS staff and their areas of service are listed on the last page of this report. Two noteworthy changes are that Vicky Cook and Jackie Deneen are no longer with the program. We truly miss their valuable time and contributions. The Detroit Lakes office has divided the ISTS duties by watershed; therefore, each watershed staff person devotes a portion of their time to ISTS, also noted in the ISTS contact list.

Minnesota Rule, Chapter 7080
Effective
Revisions to Minnesota Rule, Chapter 7080, became effective on October 2, 1999. Copies of the rule were mailed to all local governments that have submitted ISTS ordinances. Copies are available for purchase at the Minnesota Bookstore (651-297-3000), on the WEB at http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/forms/getrulechap.html and type 7080 in the "Chapter" box. If you are attending a U of M workshop this year or next, you will be getting a copy at the workshop.

Rule change factsheets are currently available by calling the ISTS Hotline (651-282-6246). Questions or comments may directed to Lori L.C. Frekot or Mark Wespetal.

What are Some of the Changes in 7080?
The rule has a number of new provisions, including (not all-inclusive).

Technical
- Increase system options: standard, alternative "Other" (experimental), warranty, performance (performance must be specifically adopted into local ordinance)
- Sewage tank joints and penetrations must be watertight for new construction
- Mounds and At-Grades need to be sized using a linear loading rate of 12 gal/lineal foot/day or less.
- Systems using agricultural drain tile to lower the watertable are now considered "Other Systems"
- Clean Sand definition allows 5% or less material greater than a # 4 sieve and 5% or less material smaller than a #200 sieve and 40 or less material smaller than the #60 sieve.
- Systems may be sized using soil characteristics vs. using texture only (Table Va; must be selectively adopted by local ordinance).
- Redoximorphic features have replaced the term "mottling"
- Specifications for large systems are contained in one location (7080.0600).
- Systems serving 10 or more homes can be sized as Type II homes.
- No systems can be placed in floodways; systems can be placed in flood fringes if allowed by LGU (see new definitions).
- "Soil Treatment" is clarified as having a 3-foot vertical separation with medium
sand soil or finer, and at a loading rate of 1.2 gal/ft²/day or less.

**Other**
- Class V systems must be inventoried and submitted as part of the design (property owner must also mail a copy to the MPCA and EPA).

**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ**

The MPCA will be modifying the rule after July, 2000. Modifications include minor clarifications requested by ISTS Professionals and have and all modifications will again be discussed at the Advisory Committee. One major error and a major clarification change are highlighted here.

**Major Error**
The 1999 rule states that **ALL** piping in an ISTS needs to be schedule 40 plastic pipe. The schedule 40 requirement was mistakenly added to the rule and results in unnecessary costs. The agency proposes to revert back to the 1996 rule language (7080.0150 subp. 1 B) as follows:

"Supply pipes and distribution pipes must meet the strength requirements of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) schedule 40 plastic pipe, and be supported in a manner so that there is no deflection or longitudinal bending during the backfilling and subsequent settling of the soil."

Pipe specifications are still addressed in 7080.0130, subp. 2 P (2) requiring ASTM schedule 40 pipe to extend from the septic tank to undisturbed soil beyond the tank and in 7080.0150, subp. 2 E (1) and 3 B requiring sound and durable distribution pipes in gravity and pressure pipes.

It is the agency's recommendation that local governments do not enforce the use of Schedule 40 pipe for distribution and supply.
pipes. At least one county is issuing variances to overcome this error.

**Major Clarification**
The required one-foot unsaturated, original soil requirement for standard mounds is not clearly stated. The agency proposes the following change to 7080.0170, subp. 5 A (2):

(2) There must be at least 12 inches of original soil with a percolation rate faster than 120 minutes per inch or have a numerical absorption ratio listed in Table Va below the absorption area above saturated soil or bedrock.

**Warrantied Systems**
The current list of technologies that have submitted performance documentation and a warranty is available on the WEB at [http://www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) and are identified here:

**Infiltrator**
Standard Chamber 5 sq.ft. per foot Equilizer
36 3 sq.ft. per foot
Jeff Iverson: (507) 775-2686
October 28, 1997

**AlasCan**
Compost Compost Tank w/
Non-NSF Aerobic Tank
Clint Elston: (320) 743-2909
January 14, 1998

**Ecoloquip**
Non-NSF Aerobic Tank - EcoKasa2
Douglas Fessel: (507) 362-8715
April 3, 1998 (4 systems only)

**Hancor**
Standard Chamber 4 sq.ft. per foot
High-Capacity 5 sq.ft. per foot
Bill Vanhoose: (800) 537-9520
May 7, 1999

**PSA**
Standard Model Chamber
5 sq.ft. per foot
Dick Bachelder: 207-363-2528
April 14, 2000

**Federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) Rules Impact Us**
The United States Environmental Protection Agency has issued rules that impact ISTS in Minnesota. The rules became effective on April 5, 2000. The Chicago EPA office regulates the rules in Minnesota.

There are many requirements. These are the major items currently emphasized by EPA:

- Any septic system receiving over 20 persons of flow is a Class V “well”.
- No new large cesspools; existing cesspools will be phased out nationwide by April, 2005.
- No new motor vehicle waste disposal facilities may be constructed to discharge to ISTS after 4/5/00.
- Existing motor vehicle waste disposal facilities currently discharging to ISTS will be phased out when groundwater areas are identified.
- All Class V systems must be inventoried. Inventories require a one-page submittal indicating location, flow and system type and system discharge. Call the ISTS Hotline to obtain a copy.

The EPA rules, factsheets, inventory and other information are located at [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic.html)

**Gravelless Pipe**
Please write or email Mark Wespetal at the MPCA or Sara Heger at the U of M (612-625-7243) indicating your experience (both good and bad) with gravelless pipe. Information can include:
• What percent of gravelless pipe installations are prematurely failing?
• Over what time period are the failures noted?
• How does this percentage relate to other system installations (mounds, rock trenches, etc.)?
• What is the cause of the failures?
• Do you feel that gravelless will have the same longevity as drainfield rock?
• the manufacturer’s name.

This summer Sara will be investigating gravelless leachbed pipe. If you have a site for her to study or want to provide input please contact her at University of Minnesota (612-625-7242).

**319 Report**
The agency must prepare a report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning the agency's individual sewage treatment systems (ISTS) program. This report has three main purposes:

1. To update the EPA on progress made in Minnesota concerning ISTS since 1994;
2. To set goals for the agency's ISTS program for the next 5 years; and
3. To identify areas where federal funding is needed to reach those goals

The agency has formed a task force to help draft this report. This is an excellent opportunity to help set the direction of the agency's ISTS program. If you would like to participate, please contact Mark Wespetal.

**County Survey**
The EPA is sending a survey to all permitting authorities in the United States to compile information concerning ISTS. The agency strongly encourages you to complete the form and send it to the EPA. The survey asks 25 questions and should only take a few minutes to complete. Tricia Angoli, Project Manager said that estimated values are acceptable. In addition, question #13 is asking for the total number of systems that are out of compliance in your jurisdiction, please also give this number as a percentage.

**LCMR Research Grant**
The University of Minnesota is requesting funding through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources to continue the current ISTS research in Minnesota (Lake Washington, NERCC and Grand Lake). Please contact your state senator or representative if you wish to support the project. The project title is: Onsite Sewage Treatment Alternatives - Application, Implementation & Management

**ISTS Advisory Committee Member Needed**
The agency is looking to fill an opening on the ISTS Advisory Committee. Meetings are typically quarterly, held in St. Cloud, and run from 9:00 to 3:00 to discuss many ISTS issues. If you are a contractor in the Marshall area, interested, and committed, please contact Mark Wespetal.

**Building Sewers and ISTS**

*by Gary Topp, MDH*

As of August 1, 1999, a statutory requirement went into effect that mandates any person or company contracting plumbing services in Minnesota, regardless of LGU location or size of population, to provide evidence of a $25,000
Plumbing Code Compliance Bond to the secretary of state. The installation of building sewer to the property line or to the point of connection to an ISTS tank is considered plumbing and requires the bond.

The question has also arisen of who is technically qualified to install a building sewer. The answer is that anyone can install building sewers in an area with a population under 5,000, provided the local authority has not adopted, by ordinance, the plumbing licensing law, MN Statute 326.40, which requires licensure (but you still need the bond).

In areas that have adopted MN Statute 326.40 and cities that have a population greater than 5,000, according to the last federal census, a plumbing license may be required. However, the Department of Health has a mediated agreement with three pipelaying groups: Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), Laborers-Employers Cooperation Education Trust (LECET), and Minnesota Utility Contractors Association (MUCA), whereby no license is required provided the person in the ditch handling the pipe has a card in his/her possession showing (s)he has completed a program of training that incorporates the plumbing code installation requirements by one of the above training groups. A copy of this agreement has been mailed to cities with a population of 5,000 or greater. The letter requests that LGU's work with the department on this issue and allow "card carrying" pipelayers to perform building sewer and water service installations in their jurisdictions without a licensed plumber on site. Most of the cities have accepted this, although some cities are still requiring a master plumber to obtain the permit, when required, due to city ordinance requirements.

Questions may be directed to Gary Topp at 651/215-0841. To request a bond form, please call 651/215-0836.

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Bemidji: Aitkin, Cook, Cass, Crow Wing, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena.
Duluth1: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, St. Louis.
MPCA ISTS Contact List

Toll Free: 1-800-657-3864
Email: first.last@pca.state.mn.us (e.g., lori.frekot@pca.state.mn.us)

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