



Sanitary Sewer Modifications, Additions or Extension Permits

When are Permits Required?

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The sanitary sewer, or collection system, collects and transports wastewater to a treatment facility. It includes sewers, lift stations, conveyance systems, interceptors, temporary storage basins, and related facilities. (Minn. R. 7077.0105, subp. 9a). Modifications to sanitary sewers typically provide new or increased sanitary service to residential dwellings, and industrial and commercial facilities.

Extensions, additions, or other modifications to the sanitary sewer collection system may require a Sanitary Sewer Modification Permit.

When is a sanitary sewer permit required?

Under Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. § 115.07, subd. 3), a permit from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is required for an extension, addition, or modification, that effects any facility expansion, production increase, or process modification which result in new or increased discharges of pollutants until a written permit has been granted.

The sewer system is defined as a part of the treatment works, extensions of the sewer system are considered to be a facility expansion that requires a permit.

Examples include:

- Construction of new sewers that will be part of the sewer system owned by a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). This includes laterals, mains, trunks, and interceptor sewers.

- Construction of new sewers that will be part of the sewer system owned by a privately owned treatment works. This includes laterals, mains, trunks, and interceptor sewers. This does not include the individual service connections, which may be owned by the owner, but are better defined as building sewers (i.e. individual mobile connection in a mobile home park).
- Sewer mains, trunks, interceptors, or other projects intended for future expansions of service, even if there are no service connections as part of the initially proposed project.
- Replacing existing sewers with new sewers of a larger size.
- Installing additional pumps or larger pumps to increase pumping capacity.

When is a permit *not* required?

- connection of new or existing homes or buildings for which the only pipe installation is for the building sewer
- repairs to fix a break in a pipe by replacing a portion of pipe
- replacement, relocation or rerouting of existing sewer pipe with pipe of the same size
- lining existing sewer pipes
- replacing pumps with new pumps of the same size and capacity

Is a permit required for an individual home service connection?

An individual home service connection is part of the building sewer plumbing system. The building sewer and plumbing are under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Plumbing Code, which is outside of the jurisdiction of this permit program. No permit is required.

What other permits or approval may be required?

An NPDES Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity may be required.

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html>

Other jurisdictions may also require permits, such as: the US Army Corps of Engineers; Minnesota Department of Health; and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Local building code officials and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry may require building permits in addition to the MPCA permit.

In areas connected to a sanitary district or to a wastewater treatment system in a neighboring municipality, approval is required from both the owner and operator of the sewer system and treatment facility. Approval from local jurisdictions should be received before applications are submitted to the MPCA.

Definition of terms

The definitions below are for the purposes of the Sanitary Sewer Modifications, Additions, or Extension program.

Service connection means the building sewer as defined in Minn. R. 4715.0100, subp. 27, of the Minnesota Plumbing Code. An example of a typical service connection is the pipe from a home or other building that connects to a city sewer system.

Main, trunk, or interceptor means the parts of the sewer system that convey wastewater to a treatment plant and are owned by a municipality. These terms are listed in the typical order of increasing capacity, but are often used interchangeably by different jurisdictions.

Disposal system means the sewer system and treatment system as defined in Minn. Stat. § 115.01, subd. 5, and includes both the sewer system and treatment works.

POTW means a Publicly Owned Treatment Works as defined in Minn. R. 7001.1020. It is the system used in the treatment, of municipal sewage or industrial wastes which is owned by the state or a municipality. This term includes sewers, pipes, or other conveyances that convey wastewater to a publicly owned treatment work, even if they are owned by different municipalities.

Privately Owned Treatment Works means a system that is similar in nature to a POTW in that it treats sewage, but is owned by a private entity. This term includes both the sewer system and treatment facility. Examples include systems owned by a mobile home park, homeowners association, resort, or other non-municipal entity.

When may I begin construction?

You may not begin construction on the proposed project until you have received a written permit for the activity from the MPCA. This includes: site clearing and grubbing; and installation of curb, gutter, roads, or sanitary sewer. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in enforcement action including monetary penalties.

MPCA authority

The MPCA reserves the right to amend, modify, rescind, or deny an approved sanitary sewer extension and/or change permit under Minn. Stat. § 115.43, subd. 2, and other applicable rules or permit conditions.

Who should I call for more help?

For further assistance, contact the MPCA compliance staff for your wastewater facility or the regional MPCA office nearest you: Metro 651-296-6300; Duluth 218-723-4660; Brainerd 218-828-2492; Detroit Lakes 218-847-1519; Marshall 507-537-7146; Willmar 320-214-3786; Mankato 507-389-5977; Rochester 507-285-7343.

A map of regional offices and staff contacts is available on-line at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/about/regions/index.html>

Application forms, instructions, and other information are available on-line at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/permits/index.html#sanitarysewer>