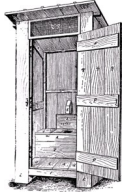


Fall 2011
Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- **Floodplain Boundary Changes**
- **Infield Verification of Soils**
- **Nondomestic Wastes**
- **2012 Fees**



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Looking Down the Pipe

Before the Snow Falls

Incomplete Installs

The vast majority of the construction season has come and gone, and with that a number of SSTS have been installed that have yet to be given a certificate of compliance (CoC). If your company has installed such a system, please take the time to finish up the missing paperwork or yet to be installed system component to complete the install for your clients.

If the property owner was required to have an installation completed by a given date but the install was missing a component or



two at the time the county inspector reviewed the install, your client has not satisfied the requirements of the county ordinance. Until such time a CoC is is-

sued for the new SSTS, the property remains out of compliance and the property owners may have unknowingly added additional non-compliance by utilizing a system that has not been given final approval by the Department.

Many times date specific installs are arranged through stipulation agreements between the property owners and the County. This gives a grace period to the property owners to gain compliance before any action is taken by the County for compliance through civil litigation

It is important to remember that the paperwork that finishes up a new SSTS install is as important as the details on the design sketch. If you are aware of lingering loose ends, please wrap them up and get that CoC for your install.

Floodplain Boundary Changes

Floodplain boundaries as we currently know them are about to change. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed report titled "Flood Insurance Study, Stearns County, Minnesota An Incorporated Areas" and has provided new flood insurance rate map panels to Stearns County. They

will become effective by the end of 2011.

These maps required the County to re-visit the current floodplain ordinance and complete amendments where applicable.

The new rate map panels will be more accurate, as they are based on LIDAR

elevations. A number of property owners will find relief by being removed from the floodplain and associated regulations. Others will find themselves effected in the reverse by now placing them into a floodplain status. View the maps at <http://maps.co.stearns.mn.us/ENV/bin-debug/index.html>.

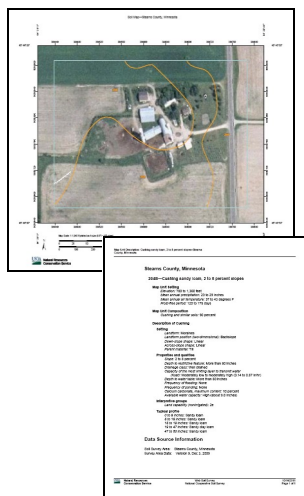
Infield Verification of Soils

In 2008 ESD began completing infield verification of soils with SSTS designers, in accordance with the MN Rule Chapter 7080-7083 rewrite. Over time this process has evolved as to what staff's role has been in completing the verification to the point we are at today, which is to simply verify and document the periodically saturated soil or bedrock.

Once practice that was not changed with each of the process tweaks was the delivery of the web soil survey information to the designer. In the 2012 season this practice will cease. The designer is still responsible to gather the information as required by MN Rule 7080.1710, but the local

government unit is not obligated to provide it.

Please visit <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/> to obtain the required information.



Non Domestic Wastes

All waste, excluding milk house waste, not defined as sewage by Minnesota Rules, chapter 7080; or successor rules, must be handled in the following methods.

When possible, recycling of the waste shall be the primary option. Any waste that is left after the recycling process is complete must be disposed of by using a sealed holding tank, a municipal wastewater treatment facility or may be land spread if the waste is approved for land application. If recycling of the waste is not feasible, then the waste must be disposed of at a municipal wastewater treatment facility. If immediate disposal of the waste at a municipal facility is not available, then the waste is allowed to be contained and held in a sealed holding

tank until disposal is available or approval from the MPCA is obtained for land application.

If a sealed holding tank is utilized, it must meet the standards set forth in Minnesota Rules, part 7080.2290; or successor rules, and the standards described in Section 6.5.2 of the Stearns County SSTS Ordinance #422. An SSTS Construction Permit is required for the installation and an inspection by the Department upon completion is required.

Floor drains in private garages classified as Group U, Division 1 occupancies serving one and two family dwellings may discharge to daylight.

All SSTS that serve single family dwellings that receive

non-sewage wastewater are regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as Class V injection wells under Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, parts 144 and 146. All systems that receive hazardous wastes are regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as Class IV injection wells. Disposal of hazardous waste must be according to state and federal regulations.

Milk house waste may be disposed of using the recommended guidelines from the University of Minnesota Extension Service for the Treatment and Disposal of Milk House and Parlor Wastes. Please consult the ESD Feedlot Staff for any milk house waste project that you may find yourself involved with.



Bulk Tank Cleaning

Photo taken from the University of Minnesota Extension Milk House Wastewater Design Guide.

Purple Trumps Orange

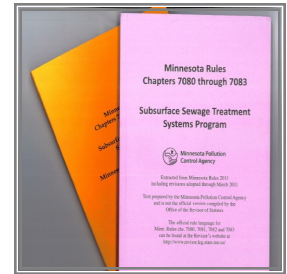
All of the current Chapter 7080 through 7083 MN Rule regulations are now under one cover, the purple covered MN Rule book. No more referencing the orange rule book and a compilation of amendments that were adopted in March of 2011, to answer your

SSTS concerns. To help raise awareness and understanding, MPCA printed and mailed a copy of the Rule to each licensed SSTS business and local SSTS program in Minnesota.

If your business did not receive one, please contact Gretchen Sabel with the

MPCA at gretchen.sabel@state.mn.us or 651.75.2686.

The Purple MN Rule book are the regulations that Stearns County is enforcing in conjunction with Ordinance #422. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these regulations.



Clean Water Fund Grants

In the fall of 2010, almost one million dollars in state grants were available to LUG's to assist homeowners in replacing failing SSTS. Environmental Services helped obtain \$420,285 of grant money to replace 47 non-compliant SSTS in Stearns County. A majority of these replacement SSTS

have been installed, but a few remain yet to be completed. If you have been con-

tracted to install a new SSTS for an award recipient, please contact your client and arrange for the installation of the SSTS as soon as possible. These funds must be used or they will be returned to the state as required by the grant agreement.

Round two: A second round of grant applications were submitted to the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) this past September in hopes of receiving funding to reduce the cost of septic upgrades for property owners who

have an SSTS identified as an ITPH.

Environmental Services submitted 33 applications that totaled a grant request of just over \$323,000 for the benefit of Stearns County residents. Award notices are expected by the first of the year, and these systems should be upgraded in the 2012 season.

These grants are meant to protect and restore water quality and are provided by the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the constitution.



2012 fees

Stearns County is currently conducting a fee review, at the request of the County Board of Commissioners. The existing format of the septic related fees may become reorganized under the proposed 2012 fee schedule. Some existing services are proposed to be discontinued, and other fees were suggested in order to balance County expenditures. Please be aware of these pending changes. All changes in fees are set by the County Board through a scheduled public hearing to take place on November, 15, 2011. Public notice will be given as to the exact time.

Trivia to Ponder

- The toilet is flushed more times during the super bowl halftime than at any time during the year.
- The first toilet stall in a public wash-room is the least likely to be used. It is also the cleanest.
- Toilets consume about 25% of water inside a home.



ESD Tidbits



STEARNS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Administration Center Rm 343
705 Courthouse Square
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Phone: 320.656.3613
Fax: 320.656.6484
E-mail: septic.info@co.stearns.mn.us

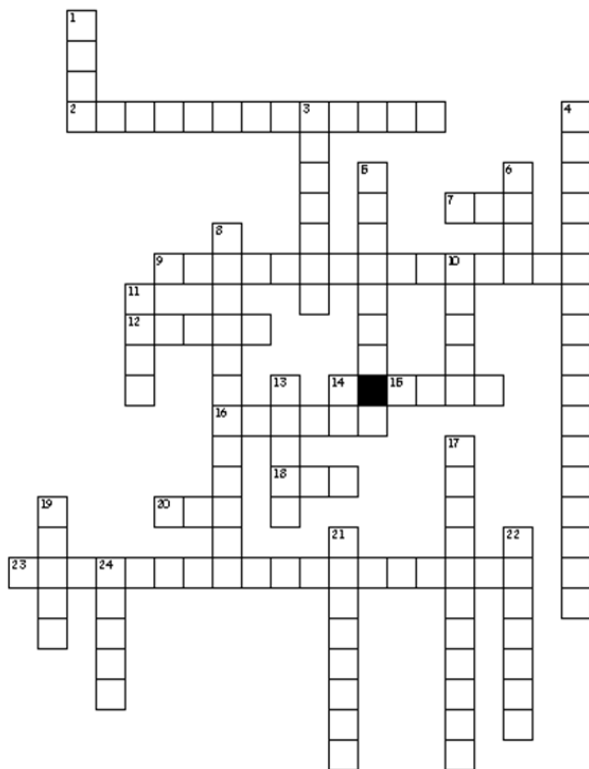
We're on the web!



<http://www.co.stearns.mn.us/Government/CountyDepartments/EnvironmentalServices>

- Beginning sometime in 2012 ESD will have a full time staff member located at the Melrose County Office. Public office hours will continue on Tuesday and Thursday's from 8 AM until Noon and by appointment only.
- February 4, 2012 is the deadline by which contractors must make sure they have the proper certifications and business licensure in order to perform the tasks they wish to offer as services to clients.
- All sewage tanks must be placed on the MPCA's list of Registered SSTS Sewage Tanks. In no case will sewage tanks be allowed to be installed after April 3, 2012, if they do not meet the 2011 standards.
- Submit your designs via email at septic.info@co.stearns.mn.us & pay the fees with a credit card over the phone. Saves time — little effort!
- Have an email address? Provide it to the ESD and receive all your requests for existing septic records, forms, and needed information electronically.

Puzzle Challenge



Across

- >2mm in diameter
- Federal agency
- Required when a pump is used
- Nondwelling structure w/ toilet wates treatment device
- 5,001 to 10,000 gpd
- Max CLR
- minimum sand lift(ft)
- Tank insulation R-value
- Relationship of vertical & horizontal water movement in soil

Down

- MSTS tank multiplier
- minority of variegated colors in a soil profile
- 300mg/L BOD, 200 mg/L TSS, 50 mg/L O&G
- organically enriched layer w/ color value <3.5
- Sewage Guru
- Ordinance model
- Minimum depth(in)of mound scarification
- State agency
- Oxidation & reduction of Iron
- system designed to 7080.2350
- Prohibited in floodplain
- 1% min for gravity supply pipes
- Designer/Inspector CEU's
- >50% rock fragments
- Minimum number of soil observations