

## 1. SSTS FY20 Grant Allocations

- a. The MPCA offered two grants opportunities to counties. The grants are:
  - SSTS Base Grants for administration of SSTS programs – \$18,600 per county (total of \$1,599,600)
  - SSTS Low-income Fix-up Grants to assist low-income homeowners with needed SSTS upgrades – variable per county (total of \$1,500,000)

All 86 eligible counties qualified for the base grant. No application was required for base grants; MPCA determined eligibility based on whether the county has filed the 2018 Annual Report and has an updated SSTS ordinance that meets the standards of MR7082.

Fifty of 86 eligible counties submitted a grant application for the low-income fix-up grant. Approximately \$1,811,000 dollars was requested for this grant during the application process. \$1,500,000 dollars was granted to 50 counties to assist low-income homeowners with SSTS upgrades.

The grant funds should be transferring to counties soon. Any questions please email Aaron Jensen at [aaron.s.jensen@state.mn.us](mailto:aaron.s.jensen@state.mn.us)

## 2. Rule Update

- a. The proposed rule to clarify when a State Disposal System (SDS) permit is required rather than a local permit, and when tank pumping is required for completion of a compliance inspection on an existing SSTS is moving forward. Currently the proposed rule change SONAR (statement of needs and reasonableness) is complete. The MPCA Commissioner's office is in process of reviewing the SONAR for final signature. The draft rule and SONAR has been routed to the governor for final signature. The dual notice for public comment will be sent soon, with a 30 to 45 day open comment period. Depending on the comments received and any public hearings, the new goal adoption date for the proposed rule is mid-January to mid-February 2020. The new goal implementation date for the proposed rule is prior to the construction season 2020. Any questions please email Aaron Jensen at [Aaron.S.Jensen@state.mn.us](mailto:Aaron.S.Jensen@state.mn.us)

In order to stay informed of the rulemaking a [rulemaking webpage](#) has been created with information about the rulemaking process and expected timeframe. Also, to ensure you have adequate time to comment, please subscribe to the [GovDelivery rulemaking mailing list](#).

## 3. Guidance developed for documenting soil/separation verification during new/existing SSTS system inspections ([attached PDF](#))

- a) The topic of soil/separation verification requirements for LGUs and/or inspectors when inspecting new or existing SSTS systems has come up often, including during SSTS Talking Tours hosted by the MPCA across the state the past few years.

The issue often raised is this:

*When can an inspector complete a compliance inspection of an existing SSTS system without conducting a soil observation? Or, in other words, what constitutes acceptable "prior documentation" when conducting an existing system compliance inspection?*

There is a related question as well, and that is:

*Going forward, what process (actions, documentation, etc.) should LGUs and inspectors follow when inspecting newly installed systems to ensure that "adequate prior documentation" will be available during future compliance inspections?*

The MPCA has developed guidance information to help answer these questions and provide LGUs and inspectors with a process to follow in both situations. Please note that the following information serves as an interpretation of Minnesota Rule. This is not a new policy, nor a new rule. As such, the guidance contains several direct references to Minn. R. 7080 and Minn. R. 7082. (Please see attached PDF)

Questions on these items can be directed to Aaron Jensen at 651-757-2544 or [Aaron.S.Jensen@state.mn.us](mailto:Aaron.S.Jensen@state.mn.us).

4. Annual Report (attached PDF)

- a) The 2018 Annual Report has been completed and published on the MPCA website at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/ssts-annual-report>. There have not been any significant changes to the report's formatting or provided content, but it does have updated figures representing the 2018 construction year. Please be advised, the primary contact for the SSTS annual report for the 2019 construction year will be Lisa McCormick, who has been assigned to cover down on Cody's administrative leave.

As always, the MPCA is open to thoughts and feedback regarding the SSTS Annual Report. Please contact [lisa.mccormick@state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.mccormick@state.mn.us) for any thoughts or suggestions. For a brief overview of the report, please see attached PDF.