

## APPENDIX IX: REGULATORY GUIDELINES

### Water Quality Permits

MPCA water quality permits establish specific limits and requirements to protect Minnesota's surface and groundwater quality for a variety of uses, including drinking water, fishing and recreation. Permits are regularly reviewed and updated as they expire, allowing the MPCA to incorporate new information about the impacts of pollutants to the environment in subsequent permits. Permits are enforced through a combination of self-reporting (reports to the MPCA, U.S. EPA or both) and compliance monitoring. To view "What's in My Neighborhood" go to <http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/wimn/search.cfm>.

If a property or business is listed, that does not mean it poses a risk to the health of your family or the environment. Formerly contaminated sites are included, even if they have been cleaned up. Businesses listed as having environmental permits, such as air emission permits, are complying with the law and agreeing to operate within the limits established by the MPCA.

### Regulated Construction Stormwater

State implementation of the TMDL will be through action on NPDES permits for regulated construction stormwater. To meet the WLA for construction stormwater, construction stormwater activities are required to meet the conditions of the Construction General Permit under the NPDES program and properly select, install, and maintain all BMPs required under the permit, including any applicable additional BMPs required in Appendix A of the Construction General Permit for discharges to impaired waters, or meet local construction stormwater requirements if they are more restrictive than requirements of the State General Permit.

### Regulated Industrial Stormwater

To meet the WLA for industrial stormwater, industrial stormwater activities are required to meet the conditions of the industrial stormwater general permit or Nonmetallic Mining & Associated Activities general permit (MNG49) under the NPDES program and properly select, install and maintain all BMPs required under the permit.

### Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits

Stormwater discharges associated with MS4s are regulated through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permits. The Stormwater Program for MS4s is designed to reduce the amount of sediment and pollution that enters surface and ground water from storm sewer systems to the maximum extent practicable. MS4 Permits require the implementation of BMPs to address WLAs. In addition, the owner or operator is required to develop a stormwater pollution prevention program (SWPPP) that incorporates best management practices (BMPs) applicable to their MS4. The SWPPP must cover six minimum control measures: Public education and outreach; Public participation/involvement;

- Illicit discharge, detection and elimination;
- Construction site runoff control;
- Post-construction site runoff control; and

- Pollution prevention/good housekeeping.

#### Wastewater & State Disposal System (SDS) Permits

The MPCA issues permits for wastewater treatment facilities that discharges into waters of the state. The permits have site specific limits on bacteria that are based on water quality standards. Permits regulate discharges with the goals of 1) protecting public health and aquatic life, and 2) assuring that every facility treats wastewater. In addition, SDS permits set limits and establish controls for land application of sewage.

#### Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Program (SSTS)

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), commonly known as septic systems, are regulated by Minnesota Statutes 115.55 and 115.56.

These regulations detail:

- Minimum technical standards for individual and mid-size SSTS;
- A framework for local administration of SSTS programs and;
- Statewide licensing and certification of SSTS professionals, SSTS product review and registration, and establishment of the SSTS Advisory Committee.

#### **Feedlot Rules**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regulates the collection, transportation, storage, processing and disposal of animal manure and other livestock operation wastes. The MPCA Feedlot Program implements rules governing these activities, and provides assistance to counties and the livestock industry. The feedlot rules apply to most aspects of livestock waste management including the location, design, construction, operation and management of feedlots and manure handling facilities.

There are two primary concerns about feedlots in protecting water:

- Ensuring that manure on a feedlot or manure storage area does not run into water;
- Ensuring that manure is applied to cropland at a rate, time and method that prevents bacteria and other possible contaminants from entering streams, lakes and ground water.

#### **Wetland Rules**

The U.S. Corps of Engineers regulates wetlands. Local permission must be obtained before: placement of fill material, ditching activities when excavated material is side cast, levee and dike construction, land clearing involving relocation of soil material, land leveling, most road construction and dam construction. Local permission can be obtained by contacting the Todd County Wetland Conservation Act Technician. Wetlands serve many purposes and their preservation and restoration is a priority.

The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) protects wetlands in Todd County and requires anyone proposing to drain, fill, or excavate a wetland first to try to avoid disturbing the wetland, then to try to minimize any impact on the wetland and, finally, to replace any lost wetland acres, functions, and values. Certain wetland activities are exempt from the act, allowing projects with minimal impact or projects located on land where certain pre-established land uses are present to proceed without regulation.