



RESTAURANT, LODGING, RESORT AND
CAMPGROUND ASSOCIATIONS

Amend MPCA Rules on Septic System Permitting, Design & Operation

POSITION: Hospitality Minnesota supports rulemaking or legislation to further amend the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's rules on septic permitting. We support:

- Deletion of the "greater than" language from the current rule for all businesses so they can use the same measured flow process provided in the 2015 legislation for resorts and campgrounds open fewer than 180 days each year.
- Modification or elimination of the "half-mile rule" which treats multiple septic systems under common ownership within a half-mile radius as a single system for permitting purposes.
- The MPCA permit fee of \$9,600 and the requirement for a professional engineering study of current systems is financially burdensome and unwarranted for most resort and campground systems.

BACKGROUND: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) rules on "mid-sized subsurface sewage treatment systems" were changed significantly in 2011. In 2015, we were successful in passing legislation which directed the MPCA to amend their permitting rules to allow resorts and campgrounds open 180 days per year or fewer to use actual measured flow. This change allowed such users to avoid using a table of assumptive flows in determining the need for an expensive and complex state permit. The new rule has now been adopted and is in force. There are other changes needed to the rules to reduce the risk of unnecessarily triggering the need for a complex state permit.

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS:

- Resort and campground septic systems have been regulated and inspected by county governments for many years without serious environmental concerns.
- We support the efforts of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association to resolve issues around the "half-mile rule" in the current regulations.