

OPERATING PERMIT

Satellite Sewer System Operation & Maintenance Requirements

PERMIT #: SSS000000

This operating permit is a general permit and sets requirements for Satellite Sewer Systems under the provisions of R.61-9.610. Coverage under this permit is set by the S.C. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) under R.61-9.610.6(a) for satellite system owners. Exemptions from coverage include components of a satellite system serving a single family dwelling, or a duplex dwelling, or dwellings of the same family on one piece of property. See definitions in R.61-9.

Satellite sewer system means a sewer system that is owned or operated by one person that discharges to a system that is owned or operated by a different person. Satellite sewer systems depend on a separate person for final wastewater treatment and discharge and include systems approved under R.61-9.505.8.

Nothing in this permit supersedes a more stringent requirement that may be imposed by sewer system owners that manage wastewater from satellite systems. This permit does not authorize any discharge from a sewer system to the environment. Such discharges are a violation of the Pollution Control Act (S.C. Code § 48-1-90(a)(2008)). This permit is effective for an owner upon notification by DHEC until a separate notification is provided of permit coverage being revoked, modified or reissued. Owners that already have coverage under the prior permit do not need to notify DHEC. Owner coverage shifts to this permit automatically.

Any noncompliance with the terms, conditions or requirements of this permit constitutes a violation of the Pollution Control Act and is grounds for enforcement action.


Jeffrey P. deBessonnet, P.E., Director
Water Facilities Permitting Division



Issued: January 4, 2012
Expiration: January 4, 2017

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements to properly operate and maintain satellite sewer systems are the responsibility of the system owner as follows:

- (a) Properly manage, operate, and maintain in good working order at all times all parts of its sewer system(s), as permitted by DHEC, to include maintaining contractual operation agreements to provide services, if appropriate. Adequate access to system components shall be maintained;
- (b) Provide adequate capacity to convey base flows and peak flows for all parts of the sewer system or, if capital improvements are necessary to meet this standard, develop a schedule of short and long term improvements;
- (c) Take all reasonable steps to prevent, stop and mitigate the impact of releases of wastewater to the environment, including but not limited to implementing a written operation/maintenance plan (electronic copy is acceptable). The plan must contain appropriate elements including but not limited to: current system map, schedule for inspections and/or line cleaning, schedule for equipment testing, and methods for addressing system problems (i.e., emergency response methods to include how to repair equipment in a timely fashion and effect needed site clean up and sanitation). Upon request, plans shall be made available for DHEC review.
 - i. Owners newly covered by this permit must implement the operation/maintenance plan within six months of notification of initial permit coverage.
 - ii. Owners covered by the prior permit will update the operation/maintenance plan if needed no later than two months from the issuance of this permit;
- (d) Maintain adequate inventory of spare parts and equipment (or have timely access to such);
- (e) Maintain a sewer system contact phone number (24 hour) so people can report system problems (e.g., sewer release, missing manholes, vandalism). This number must be provided to any customers of the sewer system, to DHEC, to the immediate downstream sewer system owned by a different entity and posted at pump stations to accomplish a timely response to problems;
- (f) Keep records of system operation and maintenance activities for three years to document compliance with this permit. Such records must be made available to DHEC staff upon request; and
- (g) The permittee shall furnish to DHEC, within a reasonable time, any information that DHEC may request to determine whether the permittee has complied with this permit. The permittee shall allow DHEC, EPA or an authorized contractor to inspect at reasonable times sewer system facilities.

2. PROPOSED PERMIT TRANSFERS

A transfer of this permit coverage based on a proposed or actual change in ownership of the applicable sewer system must be subject to demonstration that the proposed permittee will be a viable wastewater system owner in accordance with R.61-9.600. The owner must notify DHEC in writing 30 days before a proposed change in ownership of a sewer system. Notice should be made via submission of DHEC form 2614. Review of viability for the purpose of a proposed transfer will consider the following:

- (a) If the proposed wastewater system owner does not own other wastewater systems in South Carolina, the demonstration must include the submission of a business plan which demonstrates how the system will be self-sustaining and that the owner has the commitment and capability (financial, managerial, and technical capability) to consistently comply with applicable laws and regulations governing wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal.
- (b) If the proposed wastewater system is connecting to an existing system where the ownership will be the same (proposed and existing system having the same owner), this demonstration is not required.
- (c) If the proposed wastewater system owner already owns other wastewater systems in South Carolina, DHEC may consider financial and managerial information related to the owner's other wastewater system operations in the state.

3. REPORTING OF SEWER SYSTEM RELEASES

The sewer system owner (or applicable representative) must notify DHEC as soon as possible, but no later than within 24 hours (orally or electronically) upon discovery whenever any release:

- (a) reaches the surface waters of the state, or
- (b) poses a threat to human health or the environment, or
- (c) exceeds an estimated 500 gallons.

A known release that does not meet the threshold above should be documented in the owner's records. When investigating a potential release due to a problem with a pump station, the investigation should include an evaluation of upstream manholes. During normal working hours oral notifications should be made to the numbers in the table.

After-hour oral notification should be made to the 24-Hour Emergency Response telephone number 803-253-6488 or 1-888-481-0125 outside of the Columbia area.

A written submission (using DHEC Form 3685 or submission with equivalent information) shall also be provided within five (5) days of the time the system owner becomes aware of the circumstances. Reports must be faxed (803-898-4215) or submitted to DHEC at the following:

*Water Pollution Control Division
Bureau of Water/DHEC
2600 Bull Street/ Columbia, SC 29201.*

COUNTY (Organized by Regional Office Coverage)	PHONE
Anderson, Oconee	864-260-5569
Greenville, Pickens	864-241-1090
Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union	864-596-3800
Chester, Lancaster, York	803-285-7461
Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland	803-896-0620
Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper	843-846-1030
Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Orangeburg	803-641-7670
Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro	843-661-4825
Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester	843-953-0150
Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda	864-223-0333
Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg	843-238-4378
Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter	803-778-1531

4. OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY DHEC

The permittee must submit to DHEC, within 60 days of notice of coverage under this permit, a completed Satellite Sewer System Owner Notification Form (DHEC form 2614) as well as related information requested by DHEC needed to identify the scope of the satellite sewer system. The permittee must notify DHEC within 30 days of any changes of address, telephones, authorized representative and/or emergency contact information on DHEC form 2614.