

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 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-9.610.6. Coverage under this permit is set by the S.C. Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) under S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-9.610.6(a) for satellite system owners. Exemptions from coverage include components of a satellite system that are considered a service connection based on the definition set forth in S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-67. See also, definitions in S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-9.122.2.

Satellite sewer system means a sewer system, as defined by Pollution Control Act (S.C. Code Ann. §48-1-10(10)), that is owned by one person that discharges to a system that is owned by a different person. This includes sewer systems that discharge to systems approved under S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 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 Ann. §48-1-90(a)(2008)).

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.

This permit is being issued with a finite term and is effective for an owner upon notification by SCDES until a separate notification is provided of permit coverage being revoked, modified or reissued.


Douglas B. Kinard, PE, Director
Drinking Water and Recreational
Waters Protection Division



Issued: MM/DD/YYYY
Expiration: MM/DD/YYYY

1. General Requirements

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

- a) The permittee shall at all times properly manage, operate, and maintain, in good working order, all components of its sewer system(s) as permitted or otherwise approved for operation by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES). This includes maintaining any contractual agreements necessary to ensure the continued provision of sewer services, where applicable. Adequate access to all system components shall be maintained to support operation, inspection, maintenance, and emergency response activities of the sewer system(s). This requirement also applies in cases where no formal construction or operation approvals were issued by SCDES;
- 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, maintain, revise, and make available for SCDES review, a schedule of short and long term improvements. If any capital improvements, upgrades, or maintenance activities warrant construction permits per S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-67, additional submittals may need to be made to SCDES;
- c) Take all reasonable steps to stop any release of wastewater to the environment, prevent recurrence of such releases, and mitigate the impacts of releases to the environment, including but not limited to performing cleaning or sanitation of the affected area, developing plans to prevent recurrence of releases, and implementing a written operation/maintenance plan (electronic copy is acceptable) that is updated and maintained throughout permit coverage. The plan shall be made available for SCDES review and contain appropriate elements including but not limited to:
 - i. current system map showing all components of the satellite sewer system as defined by the Pollution Control Act (S.C. Code Ann. §48-1-10(10));
 - ii. total length of sewer system (in miles) in aggregate excluding private service laterals;
 - iii. nearby waters of the state, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-9.122.2, that could be impacted from overflow/spillage;
 - iv. schedule for inspections and/or line cleaning, schedule for equipment testing; and
 - v. methods for addressing system problems
 - emergency response methods
 - include how to repair equipment in a timely fashion
 - site clean-up and sanitation
 - reporting of significant overflows
 - methods for public notification in order to mitigate the impact of releases of wastewater.

- vi. Owners newly covered by this permit must implement the operation and maintenance plan within six (6) months of notification of initial permit coverage.
- vii. Owners covered by the prior permit will update the operation and maintenance plan, if necessary, no later than six (6) months from the issuance of this permit.
- d) Maintain adequate inventory of (or have timely access to) spare parts and equipment;
- e) Maintain a contact name, phone number (24-hour) and/or e-mail address, for a representative of the sewer system, in the SCDES online permitting system. This number and/or e-mail must be provided to any customers of the sewer system, to SCDES, to the immediate downstream sewer system owned by a different entity and posted at any/all pump stations to accomplish a timely response to problems and so individuals can report system problems including but not limited to sewer releases, missing manholes, vandalism, etc.;
- f) Keep records of operation and maintenance activities for the sewer system for three (3) years to document compliance with the permit. Such records must be made available to SCDES staff upon request;
- g) Conditions in which the sewer system has had more than two (2) significant spills, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. §48-1-95(5), per one-hundred (100) miles of its aggregate collection system miles, during a twelve (12) month period, are subject to the Pollution Control Act (S.C. Code Ann. §48-1-95); and
- h) The permittee shall furnish to SCDES, within a reasonable time, any information that SCDES may request to determine whether the permittee has complied with this permit. The permittee shall allow SCDES, EPA, or an authorized contractor to inspect, at reasonable times, all sewer system facilities and activities.

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 SCDES in writing or through the current SCDES electronic database thirty (30) days before a proposed change in ownership of a sewer system. Notice should be made via submission for SCDES 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 that 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; and
- c) If the proposed wastewater system owner already owns other wastewater systems in South Carolina, SCDES 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 SCDES as soon as possible, but no later than 24-hours (orally and electronically) upon discovery whenever any release:

- a) reaches the surface waters of the state, and/or
- b) poses a threat to human health or the environment, and/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, notifications should be made by phone call to the local SCDES Regional Office for the area and through the SCDES online permitting system.

A formal submission via the SCDES online permitting system using a sewer system overflow and pump station failure form, must be completed within five (5) calendar days from the time the system owner becomes aware of the incident or circumstances. After hour notifications must be made through the SCDES online permitting system and by voicemail left at the local SCDES Regional Office, with a follow-up phone call the next business day to the local SCDES Regional Office. Reports must be submitted in the SCDES online permitting system at <https://epermweb.dhec.sc.gov/ncore/external/home> or at the following:

Wastewater Compliance Section
SCDES-Bureau of Water
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

4. Obligation to Notify SCDES

The permittee must submit to SCDES, within sixty (60) days of notice of coverage under this permit, a completed Satellite Sewer System Owner Notification Form (SCDES form 2614), as well as related information requested by SCDES needed to identify the scope of the satellite sewer system. The permittee must notify SCDES within thirty (30) days of any changes of

address, telephone numbers, authorized representative, and/or emergency contact information on SCDES form 2614.

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