

---

# SEPTIC SYSTEM Operating Permit *Rice County*

---

*Why an  
Operating Permit?*



## Environmental Services

Planning Division  
320 Third Street NW  
Faribault, MN 55021  
(507) 332-6113  
Fax (507) 332-6277  
[rcplanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:rcplanningzoning@co.rice.mn.us)

## Rice County Environmental Services

320 NW 3rd Street  
Faribault, MN 55021-6145  
Phone (507) 332-6113  
[RCPlanningZoning@co.rice.mn.us](mailto:RCPlanningZoning@co.rice.mn.us)

### Area MPCA Licensed Service Providers

Advanced Septic Solutions	507-210-4795
Dahle Enterprises	507-685-2148
Kirk Flom Septic Service	507-334-7867
Badger Excavating	507-744-5565
M.S. Excavating	507-744-2045
LaRoche's	507-334-7745
James Bros. Construction	507-267-4789
Ellingson Drainage	507-527-2294
B's Pumping Service	651-460-8015
Sellner Septic Service	612-756-0357

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
SSTS Business Licensing:  
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/irypb10>

### **What is an Operating Permit (OP)?**

State and local rules require that Operating permits be issued to continue using a septic system. These are renewable permits and have compliance limits, maintenance, monitoring and reporting requirements.

### **Do all Systems require an OP?**

No, Type I (Standard) systems do NOT require an OP but an OP is issued for Type III, Type IV & Type V systems, Holding Tanks, a system designed for >5000 gallons per day, a system for a facility discharging non domestic or high strength waste and for any system deemed to require operational oversight to protect our surface waters and groundwater resources.

In general, an OP is issued for more complex Non-Standard 'higher risk' systems.

### **What are the Requirements of an Operating Permit?**

The requirements of an OP vary and are determined on the basis of public and environmental risk of the system.

The Operating Permit will identify system compliance limits, operating maintenance & monitoring requirements, procedures, reporting requirements and frequency.

### **Why does a system with an OP require Monitoring?**

Maintenance & Monitoring verifies the system **is** or **is not** functioning and treating properly. Such can provide early detection of problems that could result in malfunction of a system if left uncorrected. Early detection makes it possible to take action before a system becomes a public health hazard, a liability to the owner or a problem to the environment.

### **Who can perform the monitoring, on a system regulated by an OP?**

A MN Pollution Control Agency licensed Service Provider is authorized to service systems regulated by an OP for proper operation; take samples for analysis; interpret sampling results and identify problems related to tanks, distribution devices, to clean supply & distribution pipes and operate collection systems for larger systems.

For Holding Tank systems with an OP such may be performed by a licensed Maintainer.

An OP requires a signed valid Service Agreement between Owner & Licensed Maintenance Business be submitted and maintained on file *(list available upon request or on the County website.*

### **When does an OP expire and what are the renewal requirements?**

OP's are valid for the specific term stated on the permit but most OP's require renewal every 2 years.

30 days before expiration the Permittee must submit an OP Renewal Application, a signed Service Agreement & an SSTS Inspection Report.

### **What if the OP Terms and Conditions are not being met?**

If the OP conditions are not being met an OP may be suspended or revoked. The Department may require that the system be removed from service, be operated as a holding tank, or possibly abandoned. An OP may be reinstated or renewed upon the owner taking appropriate corrective actions.

### **Selling a property with an OP:**

Seller must disclose that system is regulated by an OP. A system in adherence with its OP requirements is considered 'Compliant', no additional inspection is required to transfer a property but since an OP is non-transferrable, the new Owner must apply for an OP within 60 calendar days after the date of purchase.