



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

Feb 25

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

WN-16J

Lisa J. Thorvig, Director
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Dear Ms. Thorvig:

I am pleased to congratulate the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) upon your agency's adoption of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency *Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems* (Guidelines).

The performance of decentralized wastewater treatment systems is a national issue of concern to EPA. EPA's *1997 Response to Congress on Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems* concluded that adequately managed decentralized wastewater systems are a cost-effective and long-term option for meeting public health and water quality goals. However, without ongoing attention to management, decentralized systems may not provide adequate treatment of wastewater.

Minnesota's revised Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS) Rules became final on February 18, 2008, and were reviewed by MPCA and EPA staff for conformance with the Guidelines. We believe the ISTS Rules implement the 13 program elements contained in the Guidelines, and therefore Minnesota has "functionally adopted" the Guidelines.

Thank you for your efforts to raise the performance and reliability of decentralized wastewater treatment systems in Minnesota. If you have any questions in this regard, please contact Peter Swenson at 312-886-0236.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tinka G. Hyde".

Tinka G. Hyde
Director, Water Division

cc: Gretchen Sabel, MPCA