

SC DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Satellite Sewer Stakeholder Forum

Understanding Changes to the General Permit September 23, 2025 | Columbia, SC



Forum Objectives Highlight

Highlight key changes to the Satellite Sewer System General Permit

Explain

Explain the rationale behind the updates

Gather

Gather stakeholder feedback and answer questions



Why Are We Updating the Permit?



DHEC is now 2 different agencies (DPH & DES)



Align with updated state and federal regulations



Update reporting procedures



Address aging infrastructure and system failures



Improve coordination with regional areas/treatment facilities



Current Version

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. deBessonet, 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 that 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.



New Version

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:
 - 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;
 - 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.

- 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 followine:

- 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:

- reaches the surface waters of the state, and/or
- b) poses a threat to human health or the environment, and/or
- 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.



New Version

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)).

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

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



New Version-General Requirements

1. General Requirements

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

a) ProperlyThe permittee shall at all times properly manage, operate, and maintain, in good working order-at-all-times, all partscomponents of its sewer system(s), as permitted or otherwise approved for operation by DHEC, to include the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES). This includes maintaining any contractual operation agreements to providenecessary to ensure the continued provision of sewer services, if appropriate 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;



New Version-General Requirements Cont'd

- 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 prevent, stop any release of wastewater to the environment, prevent recurrence of such releases, and mitigate the impactimpacts of releases of wastewater 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). I that is updated and maintained throughout permit coverage. The plan mustshall be made available for SCDES review and contain appropriate elements including but not limited to:
 - 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));
 - 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
 - (i.e., emergency response methods)
 - te-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.
 - · 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 maintenance plan, if needednecessary, no later than twosix (6) months from the issuance of this permit.



New Version-General Requirements Cont'd

- Maintain adequate inventory of (or have timely access to such);
- e) Maintain a sewer-system contact name, phone number (24-hour) so people can report system problems (e.g., sewer release, missing manholes, vandalism) 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 DHECSCDES, 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 system operation and maintenance activities for the sewer system for three (3) years to document compliance with this the permit. Such records must be made available to DHECSCDES staff upon request; and
- 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
- The permittee shall furnish to DHECSCOES may request to determine whether the permittee has complied with this permit. The permittee shall allow DHECSCOES, EPA, or an authorized contractor to inspect, at reasonable times, all sewer system facilities and activities.



New Version-Proposed Permit Transfers

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 <a href="https://doi.org/10.2002/jhecs.2002/jhec

- 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 whichthat 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, DHECSCDES may consider financial and managerial information related to the owner's other wastewater system operations in the state.



New Version-Reporting of Sewer System Releases

3. Reporting of Sewer System Releases

The sewer system owner (or applicable representative) must notify <u>DHECSCDES</u> as soon as possible, but no later that <u>withinthan 24-hours</u> (orally <u>orand electronically</u>) 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
- 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 by phone call to the numbers-inlocal SCDES Regional Office for the tablearea and through the SCDES online permitting system.

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.

| COUNTY (Organized by Regional Office Coverage) | PHONE |
|--|--------------|
| Anderson, Ocenso | 864 260 5569 |
| Greenville, Pickens | 864 241 1000 |
| Charokoo, Spartanburg, Union | 864 596 3800 |
| Checter, Lancacter, York | 803 285 7461 |
| Fairfield, Lexington, Newborry, Pichland | 803 896 0620 |
| Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper | 843-846-1030 |
| Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Bamwell, Calheun, Orangeburg | 803 641 7670 |
| Checterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marien, Marlbere | 843 661 4825 |
| Borkoloy, Charlecton, Dorchoster | 843 953 0150 |
| Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormidk, Saluda | 864-223-0333 |
| Georgetown, Herry, Williamsburg | 843 238 4378 |
| Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter | 803-778-1531 |



New Version-Reporting of Sewer System Releases Cont'd

A writtenformal submission (via the SCDES online permitting system using DHEC Form 3685 or submission with equivalent information) shall also be provided a sewer system overflow and pump station failure form, must be completed within five (5) calendar days of 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 faxed (803-898-4215) or submitted to DHEC at the in the SCDES online permitting system at https://epermweb.dhec.sc.gov/ncore/external/home or at the following:

Water Pollution Control Division Wastewater Compliance Section

SCDES-Bureau of Water/DHEC

2600 Bull Street

/Columbia, SC 29201-

New Version-Obligation to Notify SCDES

4. Obligation to Notify DHECSCDES

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



SC DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

We Want Your Feedback Submit written comments/questions by October 23, 2025

Contact: Matt.Hauser@des.sc.gov (803)898-4306



Questions???