

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1994

PART 41
SEWERAGE SYSTEMS

324.4101 Definitions.

Sec. 4101. As used in this part:

(a) "Conventional gravity sewer extension" means the installation of a new gravity sewer and connection to an existing collection system to provide sewer service to new areas previously not served by the public sewer system.

(b) "Expedited review" means an expedited review of an application for a construction permit under section 4112.

(c) "Fund" means the infrastructure construction fund created in section 4113.

(d) "Governmental agencies" means local units of government, metropolitan districts, or other units of government or the officers of the units of government authorized to own, construct, or operate sewerage systems to serve the public.

(e) "Licensed professional engineer" means a professional engineer licensed under article 20 of the occupational code, 1980 PA 299, MCL 339.2001 to 339.2014.

(f) "Plans and specifications" means a true description or representation of the entire sewerage system and parts of a system as the sewerage system exists or is to be constructed, and also a full and fair statement of how the system is to be operated.

(g) "Project" means a proposal to install within 1 general area a new wastewater collection system. Systems proposed for construction on separate land parcels shall be considered separate projects.

(h) "Sewerage system" means a system of pipes and structures including pipes, channels, conduits, manholes, pumping stations, sewage or waste treatment works, diversion and regulatory devices, outfall structures, and appurtenances, collectively or severally, actually used or intended for use by the public for the purpose of collecting, conveying, transporting, treating, or otherwise handling sanitary sewage or other industrial liquid wastes that are capable of adversely affecting the public health.

(i) "Simple pumping station and force main" means the installation of a duplex pumping station and a force main with only 1 high point and of length of no more than 2,000 feet that is to be connected to an existing gravity collection system to provide sewer service to new areas previously not served by the public sewer system.

(j) "Small diameter pressure sewer and grinder pumping station" means a single project that includes the installation of new pressure sewers totaling not more than 5,000 feet and not more than 25 grinder pumping stations with each grinder pumping station serving not more than 5 separate owners and that is to be connected to an existing gravity collection system to provide sewer service to new areas previously not served by the public sewer system.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 2006, Act 602, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2007.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4102 Department of natural resources; powers.

Sec. 4102. The department is given power and control as limited in this part over persons engaged in furnishing sewerage or sewage treatment service, or both, and over sewerage systems.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

Compiler's note: For transfer of authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Environmental Assistance Division to the Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, see E.R.O. No. 1995-16, compiled MCL 324.99901 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

For transfer of authority, powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Surface Water Quality Division to the Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, see E.R.O. No. 1995-16, compiled at MCL 342.99901 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4103 Sewerage systems; inspection by department.

Sec. 4103. The department may enter at reasonable times the sewerage systems and other property of a person for the purpose of inspecting a sewerage system and carrying out the authority vested in the department by this part.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

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324.4104 Sewerage systems; rules; classification of sewage treatment works; examinations; issuance and revocation of certificates; supervision by certified operator; training program for certified operator; fees.

Sec. 4104. (1) The department may promulgate and enforce rules that the department considers necessary governing and providing a method of conducting and operating all or a part of sewerage systems including sewage treatment works. The department shall classify sewage treatment works with regard to size, type, location, and other physical conditions affecting those works and according to the skill, knowledge, experience, and character that the individual who is in charge of the active operation of the sewage treatment works must possess to successfully operate the works and prevent the discharge of deleterious matter capable of being injurious to the public health or other public interests. The department shall examine or provide for the examination of individuals as to their qualifications to operate sewage treatment works. The department shall promulgate rules regarding the classification of sewage treatment works, the examinations for certification of operators for those works, and the issuance and revocation of certificates, and shall issue and revoke certificates as provided in those rules. Every sewage treatment works subject to this part must be under the supervision of a properly certified operator, except that this section does not require the employment of a certified operator in a waste treatment works that receives only wastes that are not potentially prejudicial to the public health.

(2) As provided in section 3110, the department may conduct a program for training individuals seeking to be certified as operators under subsection (1) and shall administer operator certification programs for individuals seeking to be certified as operators under subsection (1). Until October 1, 2025, the department may charge fees for these programs as provided in section 3110. The department shall transmit fees collected under this section to the state treasurer for deposit into the operator training and certification fund created in section 3134.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 2011, Act 148, Imd. Eff. Sept. 21, 2011;—Am. 2017, Act 90, Imd. Eff. July 12, 2017;—Am. 2021, Act 91, Imd. Eff. Oct. 20, 2021.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

Administrative rules: R 299.2901 et seq. and R 299.2903 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

324.4105 Sewerage systems; plans and specifications; rules; permit for construction; minor modifications; misdemeanor.

Sec. 4105. (1) The mayor of each city, the president of each village, the township supervisor of each township, the responsible executive officer of a governmental agency, and all other persons operating sewerage systems in this state shall file with the department a true copy of the plans and specifications of the entire sewerage system owned or operated by that person, including any filtration or other purification plant or treatment works as may be operated in connection with the sewerage system, and also plans and specifications of all alterations, additions, or improvements to the systems that may be made. The plans and specifications shall, in addition to all other requirements, show all the sources through or from which water is or may be at any time pumped or otherwise permitted to enter into the sewerage system, and the drain, watercourse, river, or lake into which sewage is to be discharged. The plans and specifications shall be certified by the mayor of a city, the president of a village, a responsible member of a partnership, an individual owner, or the proper officer of any other person that operates the sewerage system, as well as by the engineer, if any are employed by any such operator. The department may promulgate and enforce rules regarding the preparation and submission of plans and specifications and for the issuance and period of validity of construction permits for the work.

(2) A person shall not construct a sewerage system or any filtration or other purification plant or treatment works in connection with a sewerage system except as authorized by a construction permit issued by the department pursuant to part 13. An application for a permit shall be submitted by the mayor of a city, the president of a village, a responsible member of a partnership, an individual owner, or the proper officer of any other person proposing the construction. If eligible, a person may request an expedited review of an application for a construction permit under section 4112. An application for a permit shall include plans and specifications as described in subsection (1). If considered appropriate by the department, the department may issue a permit with conditions to correct minor design problems.

(3) The department may verbally approve minor modifications of a construction permit issued by the department as a result of unforeseen site conditions that become apparent during construction. Minor

modifications include, but are not limited to, a minor change of location of the sewer or location of manholes. The person making the request for a modification shall provide to the department all relevant information pursuant to R 299.2931 to R 299.2945 of the Michigan administrative code and the application form provided by the department related to the requested modification. Written approval from the department shall be obtained for all modifications except when the department provides verbal approval for a minor modification as provided for in this subsection. The person receiving a written or verbal approval from the department shall submit revised plans or specifications to the department within 10 days from the date of approval.

(4) If a person seeks confirmation of the department's verbal approval of a minor modification under subsection (3), the person shall notify the department electronically, at an address specified by the department, with a detailed description of the request for the modification. The department shall make reasonable efforts to respond within 2 business days, confirming whether the request has been approved or not approved. If the department has not responded within 2 business days after the department receives the detailed description, the verbal approval shall be considered confirmed.

(5) A municipal officer or an officer or agent of a person who permits or allows construction to proceed on a sewerage works without a valid permit, or in a manner not in accordance with the plans and specifications approved by the department, is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 2004, Act 325, Imd. Eff. Sept. 10, 2004;—Am. 2006, Act 602, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2007.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

Administrative rules: R 299.2901 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code.

324.4106 Sewage treatment works; reports; false statement; penalty.

Sec. 4106. (1) A person who operates a sewage treatment works shall file with the department reports under oath as required by the department. The reports shall be sworn to by a responsible officer or person acquainted with the facts and employed by the person required to report under this part.

(2) A person making a false statement in a report under subsection (1) is guilty of perjury and subject to the penalty for that offense.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4107 Inspection of plans and specifications; inspection of sewerage systems; recommendations or orders; compliance.

Sec. 4107. (1) The department on receipt of plans and specifications for a sewerage system shall inspect them with reference to their adequacy to protect the public health, and if the public water supply of the city or village is impure and dangerous to individuals or to the public generally, he or she shall inspect the sewerage systems or any parts of the sewerage system and the manner of its operation. If upon inspection the department finds the plans and specifications or the sewerage systems are inadequate or operated in a manner that does not adequately protect the public health, he or she may order the person owning or operating the sewerage system to make alterations in the plans and specifications or in the sewerage systems or the method of operation of the sewerage system as may be required or advisable in his or her opinion, in order that the sewage is not potentially prejudicial to the public health.

(2) The recommendations or orders of the department shall be served in writing upon the owner or operator of the sewerage system and the owner and operator shall comply with the recommendations or orders.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4108 Sewerage system; planning, construction and operation; cooperation; compliance; "private, investor-owned wastewater utility" defined.

Sec. 4108. (1) The department shall exercise due care to see that sewerage systems are properly planned, constructed, and operated to prevent unlawful pollution of the streams, lakes, and other water resources of the state. The department shall cooperate with appropriate federal or state agencies in the determination of grants of assistance for the preparation of plans or for the construction of waterworks systems, sewerage systems, or waste treatment projects, or both.

(2) The activities of a private, investor-owned wastewater utility shall comply with all applicable provisions of this act, local zoning and other ordinances, and the construction and operation requirements of the federal water pollution control act and the national environmental policy act of 1969, 42 USC 4321, 4331 to 4335, and 4341 to 4347.

(3) As used in this section, "private, investor-owned wastewater utility" means a utility that delivers wastewater treatment services through a sewerage system and the physical assets of which are wholly owned by an individual or group of individual shareholders.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—2005, Act 191, Imd. Eff. Nov. 7, 2005.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4109 Engineers and other assistants; employment.

Sec. 4109. The department may employ engineers and other assistants as may be necessary to administer this part.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4110 Commencement of civil action by attorney general; jurisdiction; additional relief; violation as misdemeanor; penalty; appearance ticket; enforcement; "minor offense" defined.

Sec. 4110. (1) The department may request that the attorney general commence a civil action for appropriate relief, including a permanent or temporary injunction, for a violation of this part or a provision of a permit or order issued under this part or a rule promulgated under this part. An action under this subsection may be brought in the circuit court for the county of Ingham or for the county in which the defendant is located, resides, or is doing business. The court has jurisdiction to restrain the violation and to require compliance.

(2) In addition to any other relief granted under subsection (1), a person who violates this part is subject to the following:

(a) If the person fails to obtain a permit required under this part, the court shall impose a civil fine of not less than \$1,500.00 or greater than \$2,500.00 for the first violation, not less than \$2,500.00 or greater than \$10,000.00 for the second violation, and not less than \$10,000.00 or greater than \$25,000.00 for each subsequent violation.

(b) If the person violates this part or a provision of a permit or order issued under this part or rule promulgated under this part other than by failure to obtain a permit, the court shall impose a civil fine of not less than \$500.00 or greater than \$2,500.00 for the first violation, not less than \$1,000.00 or greater than \$5,000.00 for the second violation, and not less than \$2,500.00 or greater than \$10,000.00 for each subsequent violation. For the purposes of this subdivision, all violations of a specific construction permit are treated as a single violation.

(3) Subject to section 4105(5), a person who violates this part or a written order of the department is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both, and payment of the costs of prosecution.

(4) A law enforcement officer may issue and serve an appearance ticket upon a person for a minor offense pursuant to sections 9c to 9g of chapter IV of the code of criminal procedure, 1927 PA 175, MCL 764.9c to 764.9g.

(5) The attorney general shall enforce this part.

(6) As used in this section, "minor offense" means a violation of a permit issued under this part that does not functionally impair the operation or capacity of a sewerage system.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995;—Am. 2006, Act 602, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2007.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4111 Actions brought by department.

Sec. 4111. The department may bring an appropriate action in the name of the people of this state as may be necessary to carry out this part and to enforce any and all laws, rules, and regulations relating to this part.

History: 1994, Act 451, Eff. Mar. 30, 1995.

Popular name: Act 451

324.4112 Expedited review process for certain projects.

Sec. 4112. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the following projects are eligible for expedited review:

- (a) A conventional gravity sewer extension of 10,000 feet or less of sewer line.
- (b) A simple pumping station and force main.
- (c) A small diameter pressure sewer and grinder pumping station.

(2) An expedited review must not be conducted for a project that is being funded by the state water pollution control revolving fund created in section 16a of the shared credit rating act, 1985 PA 227, MCL 141.1066a.

(3) To obtain an expedited review, a person shall do all of the following before October 1, 2027:

(a) At least 10 business days before submitting an application under subdivision (b), notify the department electronically, in accordance with instructions provided on the department's website, of the person's intent to request expedited review. The department may waive this 10-day notification requirement.

(b) Submit electronically a complete application for a construction permit including a request for expedited review and credit card payment of the appropriate fee under subsection (4).

(c) Provide a written copy of the construction plans and specifications for the project that is prepared, signed, and sealed by a licensed professional engineer to the department postmarked not later than the date that the application is submitted electronically.

(d) For nongovernmental entities, provide certification to the department that all necessary contractual service agreements and financial plans are in place.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (6), the fee for an expedited review is as follows:

(a) For a conventional gravity sewer extension less than 2,000 feet, \$1,000.00.

(b) For a conventional gravity sewer extension equal to or greater than 2,000 feet but less than 4,000 feet of sewer line, \$1,500.00, and for each incremental increase of up to 2,000 feet of sewer line, an additional \$500.00.

(c) For a simple pumping station and force main, \$2,000.00.

(d) For a small diameter pressure sewer and grinder pumping station consisting of not more than 2,000 feet of sewer line and not more than 10 grinder pumping stations, \$2,000.00.

(e) For small diameter pressure sewer and grinder pumping station projects not covered by subdivision (d) and consisting of not more than 5,000 feet of sewer line and not more than 25 grinder pumping stations, \$4,000.00.

(5) Except as provided in subsection (7), if an applicant does not comply with subsection (3), the department shall not conduct an expedited review and any submitted fee shall not be refunded. Within 10 business days after receipt of the application, the department shall notify the applicant of the reasons why the department's review of the application will not be expedited. On receipt of this notification, a person may correct the deficiencies and resubmit an application and request for an expedited review with the appropriate fee specified under subsection (6). The department shall not reject a resubmitted application and request for expedited review solely because of deficiencies that the department failed to fully identify in the original application.

(6) For a second submission of an application that originally failed to meet the requirements specified in subsection (3), the applicant shall instead include a fee equal to 10% of the fee specified in subsection (4). However, if the deficiency included failure to pay the appropriate fee, the second submission must include the balance of the appropriate fee plus either 10% of the appropriate fee or, if the applicant makes additional changes other than those items identified by the department as being deficient, an additional fee equal to the fee specified in subsection (4). For the third and each subsequent submittal of an application that failed to meet the requirements specified in subsection (3), the applicant shall include an additional fee equal to the fee specified in subsection (4).

(7) If an applicant fails to sign the application, submits construction plans and specifications that have not been prepared, signed, and sealed by a licensed professional engineer, or does not submit the required fee, the department shall notify the applicant of the deficiency within 5 business days after receiving the application. The application must not be processed until the deficient items are addressed. If the applicant does not provide the deficient items within 5 business days after notification by the department, the application must be handled as provided in subsection (5).

(8) The department shall review and make a decision on complete applications submitted with a request for expedited review within 10 business days after receipt by the department of a complete application. However, if the department waives the notification requirement of subsection (3)(a), the department shall review and make a decision on the application within 20 business days after receipt of a complete application.

- (9) If the department fails to meet the deadline specified in subsection (8), both of the following apply:
- (a) The department shall continue to expedite the application review process for the application.
 - (b) The fee required under this section for an expedited review must be refunded.
- (10) The department shall transmit fees collected under this section to the state treasurer for deposit into the fund.
- (11) As used in this section, "complete application" means a department-provided application form that is completed, for which all requested information has been provided, and that can be processed without additional information.

History: Add. 2006, Act 602, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2007;—Am. 2010, Act 302, Imd. Eff. Dec. 16, 2010;—Am. 2015, Act 82, Eff. Oct. 1, 2015;—Am. 2019, Act 79, Imd. Eff. Sept. 30, 2019;—Am. 2023, Act 140, Imd. Eff. Sept. 29, 2023.

Popular name: Act 451

Popular name: NREPA

324.4113 Infrastructure construction fund.

Sec. 4113. (1) The infrastructure construction fund is created within the state treasury.

(2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

(3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund. The department shall be the administrator of the fund for auditing purposes.

(4) The department shall expend money from the fund, upon appropriation, only to administer this part and the safe drinking water act, 1976 PA 399, MCL 325.1001 to 325.1023, including all of the following:

- (a) Maintenance of program data.
- (b) Development of program-related databases and software.
- (c) Compliance assistance, education, and training directly related to this part and the safe drinking water act, 1976 PA 399, MCL 325.1001 to 325.1023.
- (d) Program administration activities.

History: Add. 2006, Act 602, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2007;—Am. 2010, Act 302, Imd. Eff. Dec. 16, 2010;—Am. 2018, Act 237, Eff. Sept. 25, 2018.

Popular name: Act 451

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