

Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
Water Resources Division
Administrative Rules for Sewerage Systems
Rule Set 2024-52 EQ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

11:00 AM

Virtual: <https://bit.ly/WRD0408> To join by phone: 636-651-3142 Conference Code: #374288
In Person: ConCon Conference Room, Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, MI 48933

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on proposed changes to the Sewerage Systems rule set.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), will hold a public hearing to receive public comments on proposed changes to the Sewerage System administrative rule set.

The proposed rule set (2024-52 EQ) will amend the current administrative rules to require facility classification and operator certification for collection systems and retention treatment basins (RTB). Currently, wastewater collection systems that discharge to a wastewater treatment facility are operated by individuals that are not certified with a system-specific certification. EGLE is addressing longstanding operation and maintenance issues with collection systems such as breakdowns, blockages, capacity issues, infiltration and inflow, and structural integrity issues. The additional oversight, operation, and maintenance requirements for the collection systems will provide more protection for public health and the environment and assist the receiving wastewater treatment plants to better manage their systems to meet permit requirements.

The proposed RTB facility classification and corresponding operator certification requirement will improve the quality of operation of RTB facilities by focusing operator knowledge on operational situations and processes unique to these types of facilities. Most RTB facilities require operator certification at the Class D level or with industrial wastewater treatment certifications that reflect the waste treatment at those systems. Neither of those certification processes accurately reflect the nature of an RTB facility. The proposed RTB certification will allow those operators to become properly certified with relevant information and continuing education requirements.

Additionally, construction permit requirements are being streamlined to better address continuity of service concerns for privately owned, publicly used sewer or sewerage systems. This is currently addressed with Water Resources Division (WRD) Policy and Procedure No. WRD-010, Part 41 – Sewerage Systems Permit Approval, and the process has been somewhat cumbersome for both applicants and WRD staff who process construction permits. The proposed rules will include requirements for such systems and streamline the permit process by setting clear expectations in rule for privately owned, publicly used systems so that they may plan accordingly when submitting applications for Part 41 Wastewater Construction Permits (Part 41 Permit). Additionally, requirements for approval of plan revisions have been updated to be consistent with the Part 41 statute.

EGLE is proposing to rescind R 299.2972, R 299.2973, and R 299.2974 due to duplicative language that exists in the Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, as amended; the administrative rules pertaining to the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules; and additional rules pertaining to contested cases and declaratory rulings.

These rules are promulgated by authority conferred on the director of EGLE by section(s) 324.4104(1) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.4101.

The proposed rules will take effect immediately after filing with the Secretary of State. The proposed rules are published on the State of Michigan's website at www.michigan.gov/ARD and in the 4/1/2025 issue of the Michigan Register. Copies of these proposed rules may also be obtained by mail or electronic mail at the following email address: EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov.

Comments on these proposed rules may be made at the hearing, by mail, or by electronic mail at the following addresses until 4/30/2025 at 05:00PM.

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, Water Resources Division, Attention to:
Alyssa Sarver

525 West Allegan Street, PO Box 30458, Lansing, MI 48909

EGLE-WRD-OpCert@Michigan.gov

The public hearing will be conducted in compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. If the hearing is held at a physical location, the building will be accessible with handicap parking available. Anyone needing assistance to take part in the hearing due to disability may call 517-732-1187 to make arrangements.