

Plumbing Board Request for Action

PRINT IN INK or TYPE

NAME OF SUBMITTER	PURPOSE OF REQUEST (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> New Code
Cody Robinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Code Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> Repeal of an existing Rule
The Minnesota Plumbing Code (MN Rules, Chapter 4714) is available at https://epubs.iapmo.org/2020/MPC/	
Specify the purpose of the proposal: If recommendation for code change for appurtenance or method (check all that apply)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appurtenance (e.g., water conditioning equipment) <input type="checkbox"/> Test Method	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) Exception for clear water discharge	
Does your submission contain a Trade Secret? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
If Yes, mark “ TRADE SECRET ” prominently on each page of your submission that you believe contains trade secret information. Minnesota Statutes, section 13.37, subdivision 1(b), defines “trade secret” as follows: “Trade secret information” means government data, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process (1) that was supplied by the affected individual or organization, (2) that is the subject of efforts by the individual or organization that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy, and (3) that derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use. Note that, although “trade secret” information is generally not public, the Board and its committees may disclose “trade secret” information at a public meeting of the Board or committee if reasonably necessary for the Board or committee to conduct the business or agenda item before it (such as your request.) The record of the meeting will be public.	
Describe the proposed change. The Minnesota Plumbing Code (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4714) is available here: https://epubs.iapmo.org/2020/MPC/	
NOTE:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please review the Minnesota Plumbing Code and include all parts of the Code that require revision to accomplish your purpose. • The proposed change, including suggested rule language, should be <i>specific</i>. If modifying existing rule language, underline new words and strike through deleted words. Please list all areas of the Minnesota Plumbing Code that would be affected.	
611.2 Air Gap Discharge.	
Exception: <u>In residential dwellings served by a subsurface sewage treatment system regulated under Minnesota Rules, chapter 7080, the discharge from backwash and condensate producing equipment, including but not limited to water softeners, reverse osmosis systems, iron or manganese treatment units, and furnace or appliance condensate, shall be allowable to discharge through an indirect waste receptor that is independent of the building drain and building sewer. If this exception is exercised, such discharge shall be conveyed via an air gap to an exterior place of disposal or separate subsurface discharge method that is not connected to the subsurface sewage treatment system, provided the method and location of disposal are acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).</u>	
306.1 Detrimental wastes. <u>Wastes detrimental to the public sewer system, subsurface sewage treatment system, or detrimental to the functioning of the sewage treatment plant shall be treated and disposed of as found necessary and directed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. This may include separate drainage systems for each regulated waste stream.</u>	
813.1 General. <u>Pipes carrying wastewater from swimming or wading pools, including pool drainage and backwash from filters, shall be installed as an indirect waste. Where a pump is used to discharge pool waste water to the drainage system, the pump discharge shall be installed as an indirect waste. Pool waste water is prohibited from being discharged into a subsurface sewage treatment system.</u>	

For Office/Committee Use Only Proposal received complete? Yes No

Date Proposer notified of gaps:	Mode of notification (e.g., e-mail)	Date returned to Proposer:	Date materials re-received:
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Office Use Only

RFA File No. PB0227	Date Received by DLI Revised 4/1/2026	Dated Received by Committee Na	Date of Forwarded to Board 4/21/2026
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Title of RFA
PB0227.RFA.MPCA.Cody Robinson.Non Sewage Waste.Rev
4.1.2026

Committee Recommendation to the Board: Accept Reject Abstain

Board approved as submitted: Yes No Board approved as modified: Yes No

Need and Reasons For the Change. Thoroughly explain the need and why you believe it is reasonable to make this change. During a rulemaking process, the need and reasonableness of all proposed rule changes must be justified; therefore, a detailed explanation is necessary to ensure the Board thoroughly considers all aspects of the proposal.

This proposed change is needed to better align the Minnesota Plumbing Code with long standing guidance issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for appropriate waste streams directed to subsurface sewage treatment systems. Since approximately 2014, MPCA has provided direction advocating clear water discharges from residential equipment, such as water softeners, reverse osmosis systems, iron or manganese treatment units, and furnace condensate, among others to be kept out of the septic system when appropriate site conditions exist.

More recently, we've become aware that the plumbing code may either directly or indirectly prohibit discharges to be routed to a separate receptor that is independent of the building drain and building sewer. As a result, there is uncertainty about whether some practices that have been encouraged or accepted under MPCA guidance are fully allowed under the plumbing code as written. This disconnect creates confusion, leads to inconsistent application across jurisdictions, and places homeowners in the position of trying to understand conflicting expectations between state programs.

The proposed exception is reasonable because it is limited in scope and does not significantly alter current building drain requirements. It applies only to specific clear water discharges from residential equipment and continues to require indirect waste connections. It does not allow sewage or sewage generating fixtures to bypass the building drain.

The change is also reasonable because it assigns responsibility for exterior discharge location and method to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, which already regulates subsurface sewage treatment systems and has established guidance for managing these types of discharges in a way that protects groundwater and surface water.

If your product/method standard(s) is not currently listed in a national code, your Request For Action will not be considered by the Board or its committees, however, you are welcome to present at any Board meeting during the Open Forum section of the Agenda.

The proposal must be accompanied by copies of any published standards, the results of testing, and copies of any product listings, as documentation of the health, sanitation and safety performance of any materials, methods, fixtures, and/or appurtenances. If none are available, please explain:

Please attach electronic scanned copies of any literature, standards and product approvals or listings. Printed or copyrighted materials, **along with written permission from the publisher to distribute the materials at meetings**, and email to DLI.cclboards@state.mn.us

Primary reason for change: (check only one)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect public, health, safety, welfare, or security	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandated by legislature
<input type="checkbox"/> Lower construction costs	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide uniform application
<input type="checkbox"/> Encourage new methods and materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Clarify provisions
<input type="checkbox"/> Change made at national level	<input type="checkbox"/> Situation unique to Minnesota
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)	

Anticipated benefits: (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Save lives/reduce injuries	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide more affordable construction
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<input type="checkbox"/> Improve uniform application	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide building property
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve health of indoor environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drinking water quality protection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide more construction alternatives	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease cost of enforcement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe)

The Following Information is Optional. This Information can Assist in Evaluating a Request for Action and in Rulemaking and Should be Provided if Known.

Economic impact: (explain all answers marked “yes”)

1. Does the proposed change increase or decrease the cost of enforcement? Yes No If yes, explain

2. Does the proposed change increase or decrease the cost of compliance? Yes No If yes, explain
Include the estimated cost increase or decrease, and who will bear the cost increase or experience the cost decrease:

3. Are there less costly or intrusive methods to achieve the proposed change? Yes No If yes, explain

4. Were alternative methods considered? Yes No If no, why not? If yes, explain what alternative methods were considered and why they were rejected.

5. If there is a fiscal impact, try to explain any benefit that will offset the cost of the change. If there is no impact, mark “N/A.”

6. Provide a description of the classes of persons affected by a proposed change, who will bear the cost, and who will benefit.

7. Does the proposed rule affect farming operations? (Agricultural buildings are exempt from the Minnesota Building Code under Minnesota Statutes, Section 326B.121.) Yes No If yes, explain

Are there any existing Federal Standards? Yes No If yes, list:

Are there any differences between the proposed change and existing federal regulations? Yes No
 Not applicable Unknown If yes, describe each difference & explain why each difference is needed & reasonable.

Minnesota Statutes, section 14.127, requires the Board to determine if the cost of complying with proposed rule changes in the first year after the changes take effect will exceed \$25,000 for any small business or small city. A small business is defined as a business (either for profit or nonprofit) with less than 50 full-time employees and a small city is defined as a city with less than ten full-time employees.

During the first year after the proposed changes go into effect, will it cost more than \$25,000 for any small business or small city of comply with the change? Yes No If yes, identify by name the small business(es) or small city(ies).

Will this proposed plumbing code amendment require any local government to adopt or amend an ordinance or other regulation in order to comply with the proposed plumbing code amendment? Yes No If yes, identify by name the government(s) and ordinances(s) that will need to be amended in order to comply with the proposed plumbing code amendment.

Additional supporting documentation may also be attached to this form. Are there any additional comments you feel the Committee/Board may need to consider? If so, please state them here:

- Information regarding submitting this form:**
- Submissions are received and heard by the Committee on an “as received” basis. **Any missing documentation will delay the process, and your proposal will be listed as the date it was received “Complete.”**
 - **Submit any supporting documentation to be considered**, such as manufacturer’s literature, approvals by other states, and engineering data electronically to DLI.CCLDBOARDS@state.mn.us. Once your Request For Action form has been received, it will be assigned a file number. Please reference this file number on any correspondence and supplemental submissions.
 - For copyrighted materials that must be purchased from publishers, such as published standards, product approvals or testing data, listings by agencies (IAPMO, ASSE, ASTM, etc..) you may send (or email) two copies, *along with written permission from the publisher to distribute the materials at meetings*, via U.S. Mail to: Plumbing Board, c/o Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road No., St. Paul, MN 55155-4344.
 - For materials that must be submitted by U.S. Mail, please include a copy of your “Request For Action” form originally submitted and reference your assigned RFA file number.
- Information for presentation to the Committee and/or Board:**
- Limit presentations to 5 minutes or less.
 - Be prepared to answer questions regarding the proposal and any documentation.
- Information regarding Committee and/or Board function:**
- The Plumbing Board or designated Committee.

I understand that any action is a recommendation to the Plumbing Board and is not to be considered final action.

Submitter’s Name		Submitter’s Email Address		Submitter’s Firm Name	
Cody Robinson		Cody.robinson@state.mn.us		Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	
Presenter’s name, phone, and email if different					
Submitter’s Mailing Street Address			City	State	Zip Code
520 Lafayette Rd N			St. Paul	MN	55155
Submitter’s Phone		Submitter’s Signature (original, electronic or typed)		Date	
651-757-2535		Cody Robinson		2/12/2026	

For Assistance or questions on completing this form, contact Mike Westemeier, Department of Labor and Industry at michael.westemeier@state.mn.us or by phone 651-284-5898.