

Plumbing Board
c/o Department of Labor and Industry
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NOTICE OF FINAL INTERPRETATION

On November 6, 2023 the Minnesota Plumbing Board issued a Final Interpretation, which is printed below, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §§ 326B.435, subd. 2(a)(4), and 326B.127, subd. 5.

Any person aggrieved by this Final Interpretation may appeal it within 30 days of its issuance in accordance with Minnesota Statutes chapter 14.

Questions may be directed to Brittany Wysokinski, telephone number: 651-284-5295, email: brittany.wysokinski@state.mn.us.

FINAL INTERPRETATION

Inquiry:	PB0160
Subject:	Storm drainage piping
Code Reference:	2020 Minnesota Plumbing Code: 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) sections 310.5 and 309.1, as incorporated in the Minnesota Plumbing Code by Minnesota Rules, part 4714.0050.
Submitted by:	Kyle Dimler City of Hutchinson 111 Hassan St. SE, Hutchinson, MN 55350
Approved by:	Minnesota Plumbing Board, by Richard Becker, P.E., Chair
Date Received:	October 16, 2023
Issue Date:	November 6, 2023

Question: Is a drainage system surcharged by design when an inlet drainage pipe of a stormwater retention pond is designed to be above the MPCA required pond level of 1800 cubic feet per acre of drainage area plus the volume of 1.0 inch of runoff from the net increase in impervious surfaces created by the project?

Answer: No, a drainage system is not surcharged by design when the inlet pipe enters a stormwater retention pond above the level attained by the water quality volume, which equals the MPCA required pond level of 1800 cubic feet per acre of drainage area plus the volume of 1.0 inch of runoff from the net increase in impervious surfaces

Analysis: Section 310.5 of the 2020 Minnesota Plumbing Code states that “[n]o fitting, fixture and piping connection, appliance, device, or method of installation that obstructs or retards the flow of water, wastes, sewage, or air in the drainage or venting systems . . . shall be used unless

it is indicated as acceptable in this code or is approved in accordance with Section 301.2 of this code.” The obstruction or retardation of flow is known as “surcharge” in the industry. Section 309.1 states that “[d]esign, construction, and workmanship shall be in accordance with accepted engineering practices and shall be of such character as to secure the results sought to be obtained by this code.” The Board determined that an inlet pipe that is above the level attained by the water quality volume, as defined by MPCA guidelines, is designed in such a way so as to both meet accepted engineering practices and is also of such a character as to secure the results sought to be obtained by this code. Therefore, storm sewers designed so that the inlet pipe enters above the level attained by the water quality volume are not considered surcharged by design.

Commentary: This request for interpretation was considered at the regular meeting of the Board on October 17, 2023, the special meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Storm Drainage Surcharge on October 31, 2023, and the special meeting of the Board on November 6, 2023. All parties had an opportunity to be heard. As required by Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.127, subd. 5, the Minnesota Plumbing Board will consider this final interpretation for adoption as part of the Minnesota Plumbing Code

Date: November 7, 2023



Richard Becker, P.E., Chair
Minnesota Plumbing Board