1 Prohibition.

Subd. 1. Permits. Makes it unlawful for a person to make any change to or operate an existing wastewater treatment disposal system or point pollution source, without being granted a written permit.

Subd. 2. Plans. Describes the plans and specifications for a wastewater treatment works or disposal system that must be approved prior to a permit.

Subd. 3a. Studies. Requires, before a wastewater treatment permit is granted, that a municipality's feasibility study show that no lower cost alternative exists for wastewater treatment. Requires public notice and consideration by the PCA of comments on a facilities plan or feasibility study. Permits the PCA to certify a lower cost wastewater technology.

Subd. 3b. Waiver. Allows the PCA to approve by general permit on a watershed or watershed basinwide basis any alternative sewage treatment system that reduces pollution, and allows the waiver of plans and specifications for any standard or manufactured wastewater treatment disposal technology authorized by general permit.

2 Cost definitions. Defines eligible costs for professional services in a wastewater treatment system as not exceeding a "fair and reasonable fee" as defined by statute. Clause (9) states that when the PCA certifies a lower cost alternative wastewater technology under section 1, the agency may allow at least a one-third cost savings of the difference between a municipality's estimated project cost and the PCA's certified estimated cost.

3 Approved projects. Requires in the certification by the PCA commissioner to the Public Facilities Authority:

(a) a statement that the project is consistent with the areawide water quality management plan; and

(b) that there are no lower cost alternative technologies or best management practices that would meet the water quality and health requirements for 20 years.
4 Appropriations. $300,000 each year of the biennium is appropriated to the PCA for a grant to the University of Minnesota to enhance the water quality cooperatives project.