

General information

Public comment period begins: September 1, 2022

Public comment period ends: October 31, 2022

Current permit issued: December 17, 2013

Current permit expiration date: November 30, 2018

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this permit for a term of approximately five years.

Name and address of Permittee:

City of Fosston
P.O. Box 239
Fosston, MN 56542-0239

Facility name and location:

Fosston Wastewater Treatment Facility
400th Street SE
Fosston, MN 56542
Polk County
T148N, R40W, Section 33

MPCA contact person:

Amanda Wilkens
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7678 College Road, Suite 105
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone: 218-316-3881
Email: amanda.wilkens@state.mn.us

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
844-828-0942

A draft permit is available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices>. Additional materials relating to the issuance of this permit are available for inspection by appointment at any MPCA office (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/contact-us>) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft permit upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and U.S. Mail comments must be received by 4:30 p.m.

Watershed: Clearwater River

Receiving water: Poplar River - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The Facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.494 million gallons per day (MGD)
- Approximately 0.150 MGD industrial flow from the significant industrial user Minnesota Dehydrated Vegetables
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 900 milligram per liter (mg/L)

Major components of the Facility include:

- 2 Aerated Ponds - 6-acres each, measured at a mean operating depth of nine feet, more than two hours detention time
- 1 Primary Stabilization Pond - 22-acres, measured at a mean operating depth of 3.5 feet
- 1 Secondary Stabilization Pond - 22-acres, measured at a mean operating depth of 3.5 feet
- 1 Secondary Stabilization Pond - 19.7-acres, measured at a mean operating depth of 3.5 feet

The Facility consists of a main lift station, approximately 1,480 feet of 8-inch force main, 2.5-million-gallon anaerobic contactor tank for industrial pretreatment, two aerated ponds six acres each measured at a mean operating depth of nine feet with more than two hours of detention time, and a 22-acre primary pond, 22-acre secondary pond, and 19.7-acre secondary pond measured at the three and a half-foot mean operating depth. Industrial process wastewater from the Minnesota Dehydrated Vegetables plant is pretreated in the anaerobic contactor tank prior to entering the aerated ponds.

The Facility is designed to have a controlled discharge from either the 19.7-acre secondary pond (SD 001) or the 22-acre secondary pond (SD 002) to the Poplar River (Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water). The total detention time of the Facility is 210 days at design flow.

The Permittee has submitted plans and specifications to construct two new stabilization ponds for operational convenience. Currently, the Facility does not have enough storage for winter operations. The proposed Primary Pond #2 will be approximately 16 acres and the proposed Secondary Pond #3 will be approximately 20 acres. The total proposed project site, including existing ponds, will be approximately 99.7 acres. The permitted AWW flow will remain at 0.494 MGD. If the Permittee decides to change its operations to increase the permitted flow, the Permittee will need to get proper approval from the MPCA.

The Facility is further described in plans and specifications (dated December 2010) prepared by Ulteig Engineers, Inc. of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The anaerobic pretreatment unit is described in an Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Evaluation Report prepared by Rein and Associates (dated March 2002), and a Project Manual for Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Facilities Project and associated drawings prepared by Valley Engineering, Inc., Heyer Engineering, Tri-Star Engineering, and Houston Engineering, Inc. (dated May 2002). All documents are kept on file at the MPCA.

The preliminary determination to reissue this wastewater permit is tentative.

Procedure for public participation

As stated in Minn. R. chs. 7000 and 7001, there are three formal procedures for public participation in the MPCA's consideration of this matter. Interested persons may:

- 1) Submit written comments on the draft permit.
- 2) Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
- 3) Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Submitting written comments

Comments may be submitted:

- 1) Online at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publiccomments>; or
- 2) By U.S. postal mail to the following address:
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
c/o Amanda Wilkens
7678 College Road, Suite 105
Baxter, MN 56425

Submitted comments or petitions must state:

- 1) Your interest in the permit application or the draft permit.
- 2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft permit you believe should be changed.
- 3) The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the MPCA to investigate the merits of the position.

Public informational meeting

A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above and in addition include a statement of the reasons the person desires the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and the issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.

Contested Case Hearing

A contested case hearing is a formal proceeding before an administrative law judge empowered to advise the MPCA regarding issues of fact. As described in Minn. R. 7000.1800, persons who submit petitions for a contested case hearing must also state the issues they propose to address in a contested case hearing, the specific relief requested or resolution of the matter, and the reasons (which may be in the form of proposed findings) supporting an MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing. Failure to comply with these rules exactly may result in a denial of the request. To the extent known, the petitioner may also submit a list of prospective witnesses to be called at a hearing, a proposed list of publications, references, or studies to be introduced at a hearing and the approximate time required for the petitioner to present the matter at a hearing. The decision whether to hold a contested case hearing will be made under Minn. R. 7000.1900.