

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** September 13, 2022

**Public comment period ends:** November 14, 2022

**Current permit issued:** January 24, 2014

**Current permit expiration date:** December 31, 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 Redwood Falls  
P.O. Box 526  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283-0526

**Facility name and location:**

Redwood Falls Wastewater Treatment  
Plant  
County Road 25  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283-0526  
Redwood County  
T113N, R35W, Section 030

**MPCA contact person:**

Ashley Wahl  
Municipal Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
504 Fairgrounds Road, Suite 200  
Marshall, MN 56258  
Phone: 507-476-4264  
Email: [ashley.wahl@state.mn.us](mailto:ashley.wahl@state.mn.us)

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

A draft permit and fact sheet are 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:** Redwood River

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

## Description of permitted facility

The existing Redwood Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is a Class C facility designed to treat an average wet weather (AWW) design flow of 1.321 million gallons a day (MGD) with a 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) strength of 171 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The Facility has a continuous discharge (SD 002) to the Minnesota River (Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water).

The application and plans indicate that the existing Facility consists of two separate treatment centers. The Redwood Falls Treatment Center receives the flow from the city of Redwood Falls (WS 001). The Regional Treatment Center receives both the pretreated effluent from Central Bi-Products (WS 004) and from the Redwood Falls Treatment Center effluent.

The permittee has submitted a facility plan which outlines proposed improvements to the Redwood Falls Treatment Center. These proposed improvements will increase the classification of the Facility to a Class B facility. The Facility will continue to be designed to treat an AWW design flow of 1.321 MGD with a CBOD<sub>5</sub> strength of 171 mg/L. After the improvements are complete, the Facility will continue to have a continuous discharge (SD 002) to the Minnesota River.

The Redwood Falls Treatment Center is a three-celled aerated pond system located in NW ¼ of Section 31, Township 113 North, Range 35 West, City of Redwood Falls, Redwood County, Minnesota, and treats the flows from the city of Redwood Falls. The system consists of a manual bar screen, grit removal, three aerated ponds, and a submerged media fixed film nitrification process. This system was built in 1966 and the primary pond was expanded in 1988. The system was designed for 38.0 million gallons of storage and 29 days of detention time at AWW flow. The primary pond has a surface area of 4.03 acres at mean depth and each of the two secondary ponds have a surface area of 3.82 acres at mean depth; all ponds have an operational depth of 10 feet. The proposed improvements include the addition of chemical addition equipment for phosphorus removal and tertiary filtration prior to discharge from the Redwood Falls Treatment Center.

Treated flow from the Redwood Falls Treatment Center may be discharged to the Minnesota River through SD 002, or it may be diverted to the Regional Treatment Center and further treated with flow from Central Bi-Products before discharge through SD 002. SD 002 is located in the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 19, Township 113 North, Range 35 West, City of Redwood Falls, Redwood County, Minnesota.

The Regional Treatment Center is a three-cell tertiary aerated pond system located in the NE ¼ of Section 30, Township 113 North, Range 35 West, City of Redwood Falls, Redwood County, Minnesota. The system receives pretreated flow from both the city of Redwood Falls and from Central Bi-Products. The Regional Treatment Center was constructed in 1996 and consists of three tertiary aerated ponds with 15.0 MG of storage operated from the 2-foot to 13-foot level and 11 days detention time at AWW flow. Each of the three tertiary ponds is 1.43 acres at the average operating depth. No improvements have been proposed for the Regional Treatment Center at this time.

The Facility has a phosphorus trade agreement with the City of New Ulm. This trade is further described in the Compliance Schedule section of the permit.

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 Ashley Wahl  
504 Fairgrounds Road, Suite 200  
Marshall, MN 56258

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.