

General information

Public comment period begins: October 7, 2022

Public comment period ends: December 6, 2022

Current permit issued: January 10, 2011

Current permit expiration date: December 31, 2015

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:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:	TMDL wasteload allocation modifications:
Plainview-Elgin Sanitary District 24934 530th Street P.O. Box 416 Plainview, MN 55964-0416	Plainview-Elgin Sanitary District 24934 530th Street Plainview, MN 55964 Wabasha County T108N, R11W, Section 017	Melanie Miland Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 7381 Airport View Drive SW Rochester, MN 55902 Phone: 507-206-2647 Email: melanie.miland@state.mn.us	Emily Zanon TMDL Project Manager Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 7381 Airport View Drive SW Rochester, MN 55902 Phone: 507-206-2613 Email: emily.zanon@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>. In conjunction with the reissuance of this permit, the MPCA Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify the [Lower Mississippi River Fecal Coliform TMDL](#) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) wasteload allocation. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft permit or TMDL related documents 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 time identified above. 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: Mississippi River - Winona

Receiving water: Unnamed creek - Class 7, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water; Whitewater River, North Fork - Class 1B, 2Ag, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of Permitted Facility

The Plainview-Elgin Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is located at 24934 530th Street, Plainview, Minnesota 55964-3216, Wabasha County.

The Plainview-Elgin Sanitary District (District) operates a municipal wastewater treatment facility located in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 17, T108N, R11W, Plainview Township, Wabasha County, Minnesota. The application and plans indicate that the existing Facility consists of 4,300 feet of 24-inch gravity flow interceptor from the city of Plainview; 23,600 feet of eight-inch force main from the city of Elgin; two lift stations; fine screens; an aerated grit basin with grit processing equipment; four aeration basins; four final clarifiers; biological phosphorus removal process tanks, chemical addition equipment; UV light disinfection; two aerobic biosolids digesters, biosolids storage, sludge thickening (belt thickener); 8,000 feet of 15-inch gravity outfall sewer; two sludge storage tanks; a sludge hauling truck; two emergency generators; and a 1.2-acre influent retention basin. This is a Class A Facility.

The Facility has a continuous discharge (SD 002) to an intermittent unnamed stream (Class 7 water) which is a tributary to the North Branch of the Whitewater River (Class 1B water), a designated trout stream.

The Facility is designed to treat an average wet weather flow of 2.67 million gallons per day (MGD) with an influent five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) strength of 216 milligrams per liter (mg/L), or 4,800 pounds per day of CBOD₅ (annual average per day). The Facility is also designed for an average dry weather flow of 1.92 MGD, a peak hourly wet weather flow of 6.69 MGD and the design total suspended solids (TSS) is approximately 2,400 pounds of TSS (annual average per day).

The Facility treats domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater from four designated significant industrial users (SIUs). Biosolids are digested in two aerobic digesters and stored in an above-ground biosolids tank until land application. The biosolids are land spread twice per year on approved agricultural land.

The preliminary determination to reissue this wastewater permit is tentative.

Description of TMDL Wasteload Allocation Modification

The [Lower Mississippi River Fecal Coliform TMDL](#), approved by EPA on April 5, 2006 incorrectly used the AWWDF of 1.421 mgd rather than the correct AWWDF of 2.67 mgd to calculate the WLA of 0.32 trillion organisms per month (t-org/m). Using the correct AWWDF of 2.67 mgd, the WLA would be 0.61 t-org/m. This is a difference in flow of 1.249 mgd (1.932 cfs) and an increase of 0.286 t-org/m for the existing Facility. This NPDES/SDS Permit authorizes the expansion of the WLA for the Plainview-Elgin WWTF and amends the [Lower Mississippi River Fecal Coliform TMDL](#). Expansion of the WLA will not contribute to the bacteria impairment in the Whitewater River because the NPDES/SDS Permit's Fecal Coliform permitted discharge limit of 200 organisms per 100 ml is consistent with the water quality standard.

As mentioned above, the difference between the design flows is 1.249 MGD, which is equal to 1.932 cfs. This means an increase of 1.932 cfs of flow from the WWTP to the Whitewater River, which in turn expands the fecal coliform loading capacity by 0.286 t-org/m. The discharge will not result in a decrease in the Whitewater River's water quality because fecal coliform bacteria loading capacity will increase as a result of the increased stream flow resulting from the discharge.

	Approved Wasteload Allocation	Flow Increase	Fecal Coliform Load Increase	Modified Wasteload Allocation
Plainview Elgin WWTP WLA Expansion	0.32 t-org/m	1.932 cfs	0.286 t-org/m	0.61 t-org/m
Whitewater River Loading Capacity Expansion		1.932 cfs	0.286 t-org/m	

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 Melanie Miland
 7381 Airport view Drive SW
 Rochester, MN 55902

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.