

General information

Public comment period begins: October 14, 2022
Public comment period ends: December 13, 2022
Current permit issued: October 29, 2013
Current permit expiration date: September 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 Granite Falls
641 Prentice Street
Granite Falls, MN 56241-1517

Facility name and location:

Granite Falls Wastewater
Treatment Plant
986 West Park Street
Granite Falls, MN 56241
Chippewa County
T116N, R39W, Section 034

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

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: Minnesota River - Yellow Medicine River

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

Description of permitted facility

The Granite Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is located at the SW 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Section 34, Township 116 North, Range 39 West, Granite Falls Township, Chippewa County, Minnesota. This is a Class B facility.

The existing Facility consists of two different treatment processes which can be operated together or separately. Both treatment processes share two lift stations, a bar screen, grit system, and a flow meter. One system is a Walker Process Unit which consists of a contact aeration tank, reaeration tank, final clarifier, and digester. The other process consists of two sequencing batch reactors (SBRs) and a sludge storage tank. Both systems share a chlorination/dechlorination system and an outfall pipe.

The Facility has a continuous discharge to the Minnesota River and is designed to treat an average wet weather (AWW) design flow of 0.8 million gallons per day (MGD) with a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) strength of approximately 175 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The Facility is further described in plans and specifications filed with the MPCA and in a facility plan by McCombs-Knutson Associates, Inc., of Plymouth, Minnesota.

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.