

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** October 17, 2022  
**Public comment period ends:** December 16, 2022 (4:30 p.m.)  
**Current permit issued:** July 1, 2014  
**Current permit expiration date:** June 30, 2019

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this permit for a term of approximately 10 years.

**Name and address of Permittee:**

City of Watkins  
PO Box 306  
Watkins, MN 55389-0306

**Facility name and location:**

Watkins Wastewater Treatment Facility  
16425 143rd Avenue  
Watkins, MN 55389  
Stearns County  
T122N, R30W, Section 023

**MPCA contact person:**

Laura Lacquement  
Municipal Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
714 Lake Avenue, Suite 220  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
Phone: 218-846-8116  
Email: [laura.lacquement@state.mn.us](mailto:laura.lacquement@state.mn.us)

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or  
1-844-828-0942

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/mpca-offices>) 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 time identified above.

**Watershed:** Mississippi River - St. Cloud

## Description of Watkins Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Facility discharges to land via spray irrigation. The Facility is a Class D.

The Facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.323 million gallons per day (MGD)
- A peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 0.583 MGD
- 464 pounds per day (lbs/day) of carbonaceous biological oxygen demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) based on 22 lbs/day/acre from the three 7-acre ponds
- 530 lbs/day of total suspended solids (TSS)
- The pond system provides a detention time of 206 days at AWW flow and listed pond acres

Major components of the Facility include:

- Primary Stabilization Pond #1 - 7.03-acres measured at the 4-foot mean operating depth
- Primary Stabilization Pond #2 - 7.15-acres measured at the 4-foot mean operating depth
- Secondary Stabilization Pond #1 - 6.92-acres measured at the 4-foot mean operating depth
- Secondary Stabilization Pond #2 (aerated) - 9.94-acres measured at the 8-foot mean operating depth
- 4-Spray Irrigation Sites - 227.7 acres total

The Facility consists of a main lift station, a four-cell stabilization pond system and four spray irrigation sites, a control building with irrigation pumps, 7,300 feet of 12-inch force main, 3,000 feet of 10-inch force main, and 500 feet of 8-inch force main. The 6.92-acre secondary pond can be operated as a primary pond which is why the BOD loading for the facility includes this pond in the total loading.

The Facility is further described in plans and specifications on file with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and in the Facility's plan submitted by the firm of Bolton & Menk, Inc., Mankato, 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

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or email, you 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.