

General information

Public comment period begins: November 7, 2022
Public comment period ends: December 7, 2022 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: October 16, 2007
Current permit expiration date: September 30, 2012

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:
Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401	Xcel Energy - Monticello Generating Plant 2807 County Road 75 Monticello, MN 55362-9601 Wright County T122N, R25W, Section 33	Katherine Jardine Industrial Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 525 Lake Ave S Duluth, MN 55802 Phone: 218-302-6674 Email: Katherine.Jardine@state.mn.us
		File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 1-844-828-0942

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/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

Receiving water: Mississippi River

Description of permitted facility

The Xcel - Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant facility (facility) is located at 2807 County Road 75, Monticello, Minnesota 55362-9601, Wright County.

The facility is a boiling water reactor nuclear-fueled steam electric generating plant. Water used at the plant for condenser cooling, service water-cooling and fire protection is withdrawn from wells and the Mississippi River. Water used for condenser cooling is cooled by cooling towers and the discharge canal prior to discharge to meet the permitted thermal effluent limitations during specified periods of the year. The wastewater treatment system at the facility includes the cooling tower system, waste holdup or retention pond, turbine building normal waste sump, intake screen backwash system, and yard area storm drains.

The facility's cooling water system is designed as a flexible multicycle system with the capability of once-through circulation of river water, recirculation in a closed cycle with Cooling Towers, and several variations of these basic modes. Normal operation for the facility consists of a once-through cooling water system with or without the use of cooling towers to meet thermal discharge temperature limits. Although the cooling water system is designed for partial recirculation or closed cycle, the plant does not typically operate in these modes.

Surface discharge station SD001 represents the plant discharge out of the discharge canal, and contains combined waste streams represented by monitoring stations WS 001, WS 002, WS 004, and WS 006. The canal discharges to the Mississippi River from a discharge structure designed to dissipate energy and prohibit fish entry into the discharge canal. WS 001 represents continuous treatment of the service water system based on a calculation that factors in the dilution of service water with condenser cooling water and river demand. WS 002 is comprised of plant cooling waters that are discharged, at times via cooling towers, to the plant discharge canal. WS 004 represents the discharge from the retention pond, which receives reverse osmosis system wastewater,

building drain waters, heating boiler blowdown, diesel generator cooling water, filter backwashes, and occasional fire protection waters. After meeting permit discharge limitations the retention pond discharge is routed to the discharge canal. Waste Stream WS 006 consists of the stormwater runoff from the plant yard, periodic fire protection system water, plant intake screen wash water during impingement studies, and may also include roof drainage.

Surface discharge SD005 includes intake screen backwash water, as well as internal waste stream WS005 (previously SD 004) which represents the turbine building normal waste discharge from the heating boiler deaerator, waterbox scavenging system drainage, lube oil seal water, reverse osmosis system wastewater, water softener regeneration wastewater and miscellaneous floor drainage.

A small area has been identified on the north portion of the site that is not captured through WS 006/SD 001. The activities that take place in this area include trash rack cleaning, debris, and dredge material hauling. Discharges from this area are considered as "stormwater discharge associated with industrial activity". As a result, a separate Industrial stormwater benchmark monitoring point for this small section has been included and is designated under SD 007. Quarterly benchmark sampling for sector O2 parameters (TSS is the only parameter required for sector O2) has been added to the permit requirements. As a condition of this requirement, if the average of the first four consecutive quarters is less than the benchmark value (65 mg/l ORVW limit), monitoring is no longer required for the permit term.

Sanitary wastewater is discharged to the city of Monticello wastewater treatment plant. The plant also land applies specific wastewater at approved locations at the plant site. These wastewaters are generated intermittently and may consist of wash waters from steam cleaning, equipment cleaning, heat exchanger cleaning, and other miscellaneous washwaters.

Chemical additives are used in various systems at the plant including boiler feedwaters, cooling water treatment, and other miscellaneous uses. Chemical disinfection of various waste streams is authorized in this permit for the purpose of controlling problems associated with microbiological activity, as well as problematic conditions that could result from the presence of zebra mussels in the Facility's water systems. The MPCA has reviewed and approved of these chemical additives which are on file at the facility.

Sediment removed (dredged material) under the scope of this permit consists primarily of silt, sand, and rocks. Dredge material typically includes sediment from the intake bay and traveling screen bay/service water bay area, which is dewatered and removed from the site for reuse or disposal. Hydraulically dredged material and material from cooling system cleaning is placed in a permitted concrete dewatering basin with multiple storage cells. Effluent from the dewatering basin is routed to the cooling tower basin and eventually to the discharge canal where it constitutes part of SD001.

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.