

General information

Public comment period begins: November 17, 2022

Public comment period ends: January 17, 2023

Current permit issued: August 11, 2014

Current permit expiration date: July 31, 2019

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:	MPCA variance contact person:
City of Waseca 35408 110th St Waseca, MN 56093-4520	Waseca Wastewater Treatment Facility 35408 110th St Waseca, MN 56093-4520 Waseca County T107N, R23W, Section 013	Nancy Heskett Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 7381 Airport View Dr SW Rochester, MN 55902 Phone: 507-206-2605 Email: nancy.heskett@state.mn.us File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942	Fawkes Char Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd N Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2327 Email: fawkes.char@state.mn.us

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: Le Sueur River

Receiving water: Unnamed creek - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge (SD 003) to an unnamed ditch to the Le Sueur River (Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 Water). This is a Class A facility.

The facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 3.5 million gallons per day (MGD)
- An average annual (AA) flow of 2.17 MGD
- An average dry weather (ADW) flow of 1.98 MGD
- A peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 12 MGD
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 4,320 pounds per day (lb/d) or 148 mg/L at AWW flow

The facility consists of a manual and an automatic fine bar screen with screening washer/compactor, a wet well with four wastewater pumps, a flow equalization basin, Parshall flume, a grit removal chamber with grit classifier, two aeration basins, chemical treatment for phosphorus removal, three secondary clarifiers, three static aerators, chlorination and dechlorination facilities, and post-treatment aeration in chlorination basin. Biosolids treatment consists of an aerated waste activated sludge holding tank, rotary drum waste sludge thickening, a thickened sludge storage tank, an Autothermal Thermophilic Aerobic Digestion (ATAD) reactor, an aerated Sludge Nitrification/Denitrification Reactor (SNDR) tank, and a mixed sludge storage tank. Biosolids are land applied. The Facility also has three ATAD units that are not currently in use. Air is captured from the mixed sludge storage tank, ATAD reactor, and SNDR tank and sent to an air scrubber unit and then to a biofilter odor control system prior to atmospheric release.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Wastewater permit is tentative.

Description of Preliminary Variance Request Determination

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) issues this document to notify the public of the Commissioner's preliminary decision regarding the variance requested by the Waseca Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility). The Facility has applied for a variance from the total chloride water quality standard for Class 2B waters (used to generate water quality based effluent limit) that is governed by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permit number MN0020796. Upon review of the documents, the Commissioner has made the preliminary determination that the Facility has satisfied the conditions necessary to grant the variance and as a result, the Commissioner has made the preliminary determination to grant the variance.

The preliminary determination to grant this variance request is tentative.

Water Quality Variance Public Meeting

For the chloride water quality variance, as required by Minn. R. 7050.0190, subp. 6, the Commissioner has scheduled a public meeting at the following time and location:

The public meeting will be held online starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending after the presentation and questions (approximately 45 to 60min).

Date and time: Monday, January 9, 2023

Meeting web link: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=mdcee1b143e0484ab6aefd92409a5e9f6>

Meeting Number (access code): 2488 233 4293

Meeting password: ftXsGVZr783

You may also contact Nancy Heskett (address above) to request a meeting invite be forwarded to you via email, or visit the WQ Variances webpage <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/water-quality-variances> for a link to the meeting.

The meeting will have a brief presentation on the variance, an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, and a period to make verbal comments regarding the preliminary variance decision. Please notify the MPCA within 14 days after the start of this public notice if you would like to request a translator for the upcoming public meeting.

The meeting will be recorded and made available upon request.

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 Nancy Heskett
7381 Airport View Dr 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.