

General information

Public comment period begins: November 21, 2022

Public comment period ends: December 21, 2022

Current permit issued: July 28, 2000

Current permit expiration date: July 28, 2005

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

Name and address of Permittee:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:
Hutchinson city of 111 Hassan St SE Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350-2522	Hutchinson city of - Creekside Organic Material Processing Facility 1500 Adams St SE Hutchinson, MN 55350 McLeod County T116N, R29W, Section 008	Anthony Bello Resource Management & Assistance Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul MN 55155-4194 Phone: 651-757-2219 Email: anthony.bello@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/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.

Description of permitted facility:

Creekside Organic Materials Processing Facility (Creekside), is an enterprise fund of the City of Hutchinson (Permittee), Minnesota. The original five-year (5) permit (SW-569) was issued for the composting operation on July 28, 2000 and expired on July 28, 2005. A permit renewal application was submitted in 2005. The application was reviewed and deemed complete but not reissued due to work load. The Permittee has been allowed to continue operation of the facility under the expired permit. Minn. R. 7001.0160 allows a facility to operate in accordance with the terms and conditions of an expired permit until a new permit is issued.

The Facility includes a Source-Separated Organic Materials (SSOM) Composting Area, Yard Waste Composting Area, Brush/Wood Waste Storage and Chipping area and Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Transfer Area. These activities are further described below:

SSOM Composting Area: SSOM is currently collected at residential curbsides within the City of Hutchinson and consists of commingled food, paper and yard wastes. The SSOM is delivered to the tipping floor inside a pre-processing metal frame building. From the tipping floor, the organic waste will travel through a sorting line where material unsuitable for composting will be removed. The organic material is then loaded into a mixing drum where other material (liquid waste, water, wood chips, etc.) is added to achieve a suitable mix for composting. After the mixing cycle is complete, the material is discharged into a composting container. An in-vessel (Green Mountain Technologies/Nature-Tech) Composting system featuring twenty 40 cubic yards roll-off containers with tight fitting lids serves as the active composting vessels. The Green Mountain Technologies system includes an automatic computer process to control temperature via aeration. All exhaust air is forced through a biofilter to reduce odor. After a vessel completes a 21-day active composting phase, it is pulled and hauled to the curing/stabilization area where the material will be formed into windrows. The material will remain in this area for two months. The material is turned periodically using a windrow turner to mix/aerate the materials. Finished compost is tested in accordance with applicable MPCA rule requirements. Contact water from the composting activity is routed to the City of Hutchinson Wastewater Treatment Facility for treatment. This activity area has been designated as OC 001 in this permit.

Yard Waste Composting Area: Yard Waste composting occurs outdoors using the windrow and turning method on a clay rich pad, sloped to prevent runoff and leachate ponding in the active yard waste composting area. Runoff from the yard waste composting area is routed to either the sewer or on-site detention pond. Material placed in this area will remain for a period of 6-8 months. During this time, the material will be subjected to rapid microbial growth and activity which in turn generates high temperatures and accelerated decomposition. Over the course of 6 months, this activity is expected to reduce the volume of the composting mass by 66 percent. The compost pile is turned periodically to mix and aerate the pile. After completing the "active" stage, material is screened and stacked in the storage area. Composite samples will be collected during the screening process and tested in accordance with applicable MPCA rule. The composting activity has been designated as YC 001 in this permit.

Brush/Wood Waste Storage and Chipping Area: The Southernmost 6.5 acres of the Creekside Soils property is designated areas for brush (6" minus) and logs (6" plus). The materials are stored and processed via a horizontal or tub grinder throughout the year when volumes warrant. The particle size of the materials after the primary grinding varies from time to time, dependent upon the intended use of the end product. The ground material is then screened to remove fines from the ground mulch. The screened mulch is then stockpiled until it is needed at a later date for sale at market. The fines removed during the screening process are temporarily stockpiled in the area until the screening event is completed. Then, the fines are transported to the yard waste composting area where it is mixed with yard waste for composting. This activity has been designated as WP 001 in this permit.

Mixed Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Area: The Facility is authorized to accept and transfer up to 30 tons per day of MSW. The transfer operation occurs within the tipping and pre-process building. Collection vehicles hauling MSW will back into the building through the north door. Trucks will back straight through the building, in line with the end of the transfer trailer at the loading dock. The collection truck will back their hopper into the trailer and unload directly into the transfer trailer. The load is moved into the trailer by utilizing a two-way walking floor system. Using the direct transfer procedure, tipping of waste on the floor of the building is not anticipated. Any debris that falls along the sides of the trailer during transfer operations will be picked up daily. After transferring MSW into the transfer trailer, the collection vehicle will exit the building either through the north door or the east door and travel clockwise around the building to exit the facility. When a full load is obtained, (approximately 20 tons) the waste will be transported to a permitted solid waste management facility. This activity has been designated as TR 001 in this permit.

Proposed Modification to SSOM Composting System: This permit reissuance includes a request by the Permittee to retire existing 20-year old aerated container system used for the SSOM composting with a Covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP) system in 12 bunkers (initially 6, with a total of 12 in the future) as described below:

Preprocessing: SSOM deposited on the tipping floor will be inspected for large, non-compostable or woody waste not suitable for the mixer or composting bunkers. Non-compostable material will be removed and placed in a dumpster. Woody waste suitable for grinding will be piled and taken to the wood waste grinding area in the southern portion of the compost facility. Woody material will be ground into wood chips. Next, a front-end loader will push the waste into the appropriate storage area. Food wastes and residential SSOM will be placed in one of the bunkers. Other amendments such as wood chips or yard waste will be pushed into their separate areas. The loader operator will operate the processing line by scooping up waste deposited in the various bunkers and loading it into a mobile mechanical mixer. If the operator notices non-compostable material, this material will be removed and placed in solid waste collection containers. The non-compostable material will be loaded into the landfill dumpster on the tipping floor as needed.

Mixing Feedstocks: All material entering the mechanical mixer will be retained for 15-20 minutes. Special recipes will be developed to balance carbon and nitrogen as well as moisture content and porosity. Specified quantities of SSOM, and wood chips will be loaded into the mixer with a loader. The recipe will be approximately two parts organic material to one part wood chips (by volume). The mixer will tear open the bags containing organic wastes as well as evenly distribute all materials throughout the compost mix. The mixer also oxygenates the material to minimize potential odors when the materials are removed. At the beginning of the mixer cycle, water may be added to increase the moisture content of the mix to 55 to 60 percent. The amount of water added will be controlled by placing a flow meter on the water line. After the mixing cycle is complete, the material will be transported to an open composting bunker.

Active Composting: The mixed feedstocks will be placed in an open Compost-covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP) composting bunker. When needed and prior to loading a bunker, operator will spread a 4-6 inches of mulch or ground wood waste over the floor of the bunker to act as air distribution plenum. Air is provided to the compost piles in the bunkers by the in-floor aeration sparger system. The CASP system relies on the Rutgers Temperature Feedback (RTF) principle to control the active composting phase. The primary characteristic of the RTF process is the use of high volumes of air in the composting mass to serve as a heat exchanger for removing heat from the composting mass. Each CASP bunker is equipped with a minimum of one temperature probe into the center of the composting mass. These probes are connected to a variable-frequency drive (VFD) unit that regulates air flow into the CASP from each bunker's aeration blower. The VFD is programmed to hold CASP pile temperatures at 145°F, so the blowers deliver more, or less, air to maintain that temperature. As the CASP bunkers are being filled, operators will cover the mixed compostables with a 6" - 8" layer of unscreened finished compost (a biocover) to serve as an in-place biofiltration system to minimize odors. Curing: After 24 days in the CASP bunker, the bunker will be emptied by a loader and the fresh compost will be re-piled into windrows in the curing area. Curing piles will be turned periodically with the windrow turner over a 2-month period. If additional moisture is required, a truck mounted water tank equipped with a spray boom will add moisture over the top of the pile. The turner will closely follow the water truck, turning the moisture into the pile as it goes. As the cure/stabilization phase progresses, biological activity will begin to slow down. Pile temperatures will begin to decrease, the material will bear little resemblance to its original state and begin to exhibit desirable characteristics (looks, texture and smell). At this point, the material has completed the compost process. It may be moved to the screening operation, or if further refinement is needed to meet customer specifications it will remain in the cure area.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Solid Waste 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 Anthony Bello
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

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.