

General information

Public comment period begins: December 5, 2022

Public comment period ends: February 3, 2023

Current permit issued: November 1, 2016

Current permit expiration date: October 31, 2021

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 Mahnomen
PO Box 250
Mahnomen, MN 56557-0250

Facility name and location:

Mahnomen Wastewater Treatment
Facility
104 W Madison Ave
Mahnomen, MN 56557
Mahnomen County
T144N, R42W, Section 14

MPCA contact person:

Amanda Wilkens
Municipal Division
MN Pollution Control Agency
7678 College Rd, Ste 105
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone: 218-316-3881
Email: amanda.wilkens@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: Wild Rice River

Receiving water: Wild Rice River - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitting facility

The existing Facility consists of one main lift station, approximately 6,900 feet of 8-inch force main, a four-cell stabilization pond system, and about 2,800 feet of 15-inch outfall sewer. The Facility has a controlled discharge (SD 002 and SD 003) from each of the secondary cells that are connected to the same outfall to the Wild Rice River (Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water). The Facility is designed to treat an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 338,000 gallons per day (gpd) with a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand concentration (CBOD₅) of 218 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The Facility provides a total detention time of 180 days at design flow.

There is one lift station that is capable of an authorized discharge of wastewater from the treatment system and discharging untreated wastewater to the Wild Rice River. This lift station is controlled and locked at all times.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has evaluated the treatment components of the Facility with regards to the mass limits in the permit. At the time of permit issuance, the Facility is operating at less than the permitted AWW design flow of 338,000 gpd and is demonstrating the capability of meeting the effluent mass limit of 934 kilograms per year for total phosphorus. As the Facility approaches its AWW design flow it may need infrastructure improvements and/or operational changes to maintain compliance with the mass limits.

This Facility is further described in plans and specifications on file with the MPCA and in an engineering report by Larson-Peterson and Associates, Inc. (now Ulteig Engineers, Inc.), Detroit Lakes, 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 Amanda Wilkens
7678 College Rd, Ste 105
Baxter, MN 56425

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.