

General information

Public comment period begins: December 15, 2022

Public comment period ends: February 13, 2023

Current permit issued: April 12, 2010

Current permit expiration date: January 31, 2015

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 permit contact person:	MPCA variance contact person:
City of Lester Prairie PO Box 66 Lester Prairie, MN 55354-0066	Lester Prairie Wastewater Treatment Facility 18355 County Rd 9 Lester Prairie, MN 55354 McLeod County T116N, R27W, Section 002	Ashley Wahl Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200 Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: 507-476-4264 Email: ashley.wahl@state.mn.us	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
		File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 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/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: South Fork Crow River

Receiving water: Crow River, South Fork - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The Lester Prairie Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is located in the SE 1/4 of Section 2, Township 116 North, Range 27 West, Bergen Township, McLeod County, Minnesota.

The application and plans indicate that the existing extended aeration/activated sludge Facility consists of a lift station; preliminary treatment consisting of a bar screen, static fine screen, and two parallel grit chambers; two oxidation ditches; three final clarifiers; UV disinfection, two anaerobic selector tanks for biological phosphorus removal with chemical (alum) backup; and an aerobic sludge digester. Biosolids from the sludge digestion process are land applied. This is a Class A facility.

The Facility has a continuous discharge, SD 002, to the South Fork of the Crow River (Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water) and is designed for an average wet-weather flow design flow of 0.364 million gallons per day (MGD) and a peak hourly flow of 0.964 MGD. The Facility is designed to treat a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) concentration of 231 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

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 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/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit number MN0023957. 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 by online starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending after the presentation and questions (approximately 45 to 60 minutes).

Date and time: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Meeting web link: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m72c9458dce1d9f97cc1968c4b2c31928>

Meeting Number (access code): 2487 211 3582

Meeting password: drTB6bPeJ25

You may also contact Ashley Wahl (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.

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 Ashley Wahl
504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200
Marshall, MN 56258

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.