

General information

Public comment period begins: December 15, 2022

Public comment period ends: February 13, 2023

Current permit issued: February 12, 2018

Current permit expiration date: January 31, 2023

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 Aitkin
130 Southgate Dr, Ste 200
Aitkin, MN 56431-7407

Facility name and location:

Aitkin Wastewater Treatment Facility
4th Ave NW
Aitkin, MN 56431
Aitkin County
T47N, R27W, Section 23

MPCA contact person:

Amanda Wilkens
Municipal Division
Minnesota 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: Mississippi River - Brainerd

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

Description of permitted facility

The existing Facility has a continuous discharge from SD 004 to the Mississippi River. The Facility is a Class B.

The Facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.69 million gallons per day (MGD)
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 390 pounds per day (lbs/day)
- Total suspended solids (TSS) of 459 lbs/day

The Facility consists of an influent wet well lift station, an influent pump station lift station, a flow equalization lift station and tank, mechanical bar screens, grit chambers, three aeration tanks, three secondary clarifiers, two chlorination tanks, and dechlorination with sulfur dioxide. Biosolids at the Facility are treated with a rotary drum thickener, an aerobic digester, and four biosolids drying beds. Final disposal of treated biosolids is by land application.

The Facility is further described in plans and specifications on file with the MPCA and in an engineering report by Widseth, Smith, and Nolting.

The Mississippi River was designated an Outstanding Resource Value Waters (ORVW) on November 5, 1984. The design AWW flow of this Facility on the date of ORVW designation was 0.690 MGD.

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.