

Public Notice of intent to Reissue, Wastewater Permit and TMDL Wasteload Allocation

Permit MN0024511

General information

Public comment period begins: January 5, 2023

Public comment period ends: March 6, 2023

Current permit issued: September 11, 2013

Current permit expiration date: August 31, 2018

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 Pine Island
PO Box 1000
Pine Island, MN 55963-1000

Facility name and location:

Pine Island Wastewater Treatment
Facility
501 E Center St
Pine Island, MN 55963
Goodhue County
T109N, R15W, Section 032

MPCA contact person:

Holly Mikkelson
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7678 College Rd, Ste 105
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone: 218-316-3860
Email: holly.mikkelson@state.mn.us

Kristen Dieterman
Watershed Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7381 Airport View Dr SW
Rochester, MN 55902
Phone: 507-206-2626
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File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
844-828-0942

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue the Pine Island Wastewater Treatment Plant permit for a term of approximately five years. A draft permit and statement of basis are available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices> or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. In conjunction with the reissuance of this permit, the MPCA Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify the Lower Mississippi River Basin Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) wasteload allocation. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft permit or TMDL related documents 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 time identified above

Watershed: Zumbro River

Receiving water: Middle Fork of Zumbro River

Description of permitted activity

The Pine Island Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is located in the NW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 32, Township 109 North, Range 15 West, Pine Island, Goodhue County, Minnesota.

The existing Facility has a continuous discharge (SD 002) to the Middle Fork of Zumbro River (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water). The Facility is a Class A.

The Facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 705,000 gallons per day (gpd)
- a 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 230 milligrams per liter (mg/L)

The Facility consists of a mechanical bar screen, Parshall flume for influent flow, lift pumps, aerated grit tank, four primary clarifiers, two activated sludge basins, ferric chloride feed system for phosphorus removal, three final clarifiers, Parshall flume for effluent flow, chlorine contact tank, dechlorination facilities, a waste activated sludge storage tank, a heated primary anaerobic digester, a secondary anaerobic digester, two sludge storage tanks, and land application of biosolids. This Facility has a pretreatment agreement with the Significant Industrial User, Land O'Lakes, Inc., located in Pine Island, Minnesota.

The Facility is further described in plans and specifications on file with the MPCA and in the facilities plan by the firm of McGhie & Betts of Rochester, Minnesota.

The preliminary determination to reissue this wastewater permit is tentative.

Description of TMDL Wasteload Allocation Modification

The Lower Mississippi River Basin Fecal Coliform TMDL, approved by EPA on April 5, 2006, contains a fecal coliform wasteload allocation (WLA) of 0.15 trillion organisms per month (t-org/mo) for the existing Pine Island WWTF, which was calculated using an incorrect design flow of 0.665 million gallons per day (MGD), rather than the correct design flow of 0.705 MGD. Completing the calculation with the correct flow gives a corrected WLA of 0.16 t-org/mo. As long as the Facility discharges at or below the NPDES/SDS permit limit of 200 organisms per 100 mL for fecal coliform, it was determined that they will not cause violations of the fecal coliform water quality standard regardless of their fecal coliform load.

This NPDES/SDS Permit authorizes the expansion of the fecal coliform WLA for the Pine Island WWTF and amends the Lower Mississippi River Basin Fecal Coliform TMDL. Expansion of the WLA will not contribute to the bacteria impairment in the Zumbro River because the NPDES/SDS Permit's proposed fecal coliform discharge limit will ensure that the discharge does not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable fecal coliform water quality standard.

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 Holly Mikkelson
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.