

General information

Public comment period begins: January 13, 2023

Public comment period ends: March 14, 2023 (4:30 p.m.)

Current permit issued: May 1, 2017

Current permit expiration date: April 30, 2022

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 Saint Cloud
400 2nd St S
Saint Cloud, MN 56301-3622

Facility name and location:

Saint Cloud Nutrient, Energy & Water
Recovery Facility
525 60th St S
Saint Cloud, MN 56301-8703
Stearns County
T123N, R27W, Section 007

MPCA contact person:

Laura Lacquement
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
714 Lake Ave Ste 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: 218-846-8116
Email: laura.lacquement@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/mpca-offices>) 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 time identified above.

Watershed: Mississippi River - St. Cloud

Receiving water: Johnson Creek (Meyer Creek) - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water; Mississippi River - Class 1C, 2Bdg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of Saint Cloud Nutrient, Energy & Water Recovery Facility

The existing Facility is a Class A Facility and consists of a pump station with a mechanical bar screen, 30-inch and 42-inch force mains, Parshall flume, fine mechanical bar screen, manual bar screen, two vortex grit removal systems, four primary clarifiers, four biological nutrient removal (BNR) trains, backup ferric chloride feed system, four secondary clarifiers and ultraviolet disinfection. The existing solids processing system consist of two gravity belt thickeners, three anaerobic digesters, a storage digester, biogas storage and conditioning prior to internal combustion generators, class B biosolids are transferred to a centrifuge and then further process by thermal hydrolysis in a Lystek process to create a Class A biosolids that is stored and then land applied on approved sites; centrate and filtrate is processed in an Ostara struvite recovery system with the nutrients being transferred off site for further processing.

The Facility operates a high strength waste program to co-digest organic materials; the receiving station consists of storage tanks and two pumps. High strength waste is fed to the thickened sludge prior to digestion. The Facility has a recycled effluent water system for on-site use. The system has four recycled effluent pumps, three manifold strainers and a sodium hypochlorite feed system. Potential uses for the treated effluent include irrigation, landscaping, vehicle and equipment washing as well as equipment and product cooling via heat exchangers. Other uses not specifically listed may be allowed on a case-by-case basis without permit modification, with prior MPCA approval. Wastewater that is reused will be effluent from the treatment plant that is also filtered and disinfected a second time.

The Facility has a continuous discharge (SD004) to the Mississippi River (Class 1C, 2Bdg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, Water), an Outstanding Resource Value Water (ORVW), and is designed to treat an average wet weather flow of 17.9 million gallons per day (mgd), an average dry weather flow of 17.6 mgd, a peak hourly wet weather flow of 34.33 mgd, a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD5) concentration of 239 milligrams per Liter (mg/L) and a total suspended solids (TSS) concentration of 307 mg/L when using the average wet weather design flow of 17.9 mgd.

The Facility is capable of full nitrification and biological nutrient removal (BNR). When the Facility is operating in the Bio-P mode, the total capacity of all four BNR trains is 17.9 mgd average wet weather flow. When the Facility is operating in the BNR mode, the total capacity of all four trains is 15.0 mgd average wet weather flow.

Improvements planned to be completed during the next permit cycle include; aeration system improvements including the replacement of a blower(s), boiler/heating system replacement and upgrades, optimization of the Facility's waste to energy equipment/processes, digester complex improvements to expand primary digestion capacity and the evaluation, demonstration and or construction of renewable energy technology.

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 Laura Lacquement
714 Lake Ave Ste 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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.