

General information

Public comment period begins: November 7, 2023
Public comment period ends: December 7, 2023
Current permit issued: November 8, 2013
Current permit expiration date: October 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:

Darling Ingredients Inc
251 O Connor Ridge Blvd Ste 300
Irving, Texas 75038-6510

Facility name and location:

Darling Ingredients Inc - Blue Earth
9000 382nd Ave
Blue Earth, MN 56013-5805
Faribault County
T102N, R27W, Section 020

MPCA contact person:

Courtney Sullivan
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave S, Ste 400
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-302-6667
Email: courtney.sullivan@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 <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/public-comments>. 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: Blue Earth River

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

Description of permitted facility

The principal activity at this facility is the recycling of food processing by-products generated by poultry and meat processors, grocery stores, butcher shops, restaurants, and other food service establishments. The finished products produced include processed fats and proteins, which are utilized in the production of animal feed, fertilizer, biofuels, and oleo chemicals.

The wastewater treatment system accepts effluent from air-cooled condensers, process drains, outside staging areas, and air scrubbers at an average rate of approximately 100,000 gallons per day. The wastewater treatment system is designed to treat and discharge an average of approximately 150,000 gallons per day of wastewater. The term "Wastewater Treatment Facility" encompasses the activated sludge facilities, disinfection facilities, effluent pond storage facilities, and sludge dewatering facilities, including an anoxic treatment reactor, an aerobic nitrification reactor, a diffused air flotation system, compressors and blowers associated with the activated sludge system, a flotation clarifier and associated flocculation addition equipment and tubes, a conventional clarifier, an ultra violet (UV) disinfection system, sludge storage tanks and sludge centrifuge, effluent storage ponds, wastewater discharge outfalls and associated controls, and all associated alarms, pumps, piping, sumps, and valves.

Effluent from the clarifier goes to a UV disinfection system prior to discharge to the Blue Earth River via Surface Discharge (SD) 002, or goes to the wastewater storage ponds for controlled discharge via SD 001. Wastewater may be discharged from either of these outfalls, but not simultaneously. Effluent that may not meet discharge limits or excess effluent is sent to the primary pond for storage. From the primary pond, the effluent is piped to the secondary pond before discharge.

In addition to the permitted surface water discharges, the Permittee is authorized to land apply wastewater and/or industrial by-products in accordance with the terms and conditions in this permit.

Sanitary wastewater is discharged to a septic tank and drainfield system and is not authorized to be discharged under this permit.

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 <https://mpca.commentinput.com/comment/search>; or
- 2) By U.S. postal mail to the following address:
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
c/o Courtney Sullivan
525 Lake Ave S, Ste 400
Duluth, MN 55802

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.