

General information

Public comment period begins: January 5, 2024

Public comment period ends: March 5, 2024

Current permit issued: June 9, 2015

Current permit expiration date: May 31, 2020

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 Willmar
333 6th St SW
Willmar, MN 56201-3457

Facility name and location:

Willmar WWTF
3000 75th St SW
Willmar, MN 56201-9748
Kandiyohi County
T119N, R36W, Section 023

MPCA contact person:

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

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 <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: Minnesota River - Yellow Medicine River

Receiving water: Hawk Creek - Class 7, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The existing Facility has a continuous discharge from SD 005. This is a Class A Facility.

The Facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 7.51 million gallons per day (mgd)
- An average dry weather (ADW) flow of 4.92 mgd
- A peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 27.4 mgd
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD5) of 13,029 pounds per day (lb/day)
- Total suspended solids (TSS) of 8,984 lb/day
- Total phosphorus (TP) of 567 lb/day

The treatment facility consists of two parallel treatment trains: one for domestic wastewater, and one for industrial wastewater. Domestic treatment components include screw pumps, mechanical screening, grit removal, a selector basin, two oxidation ditches, two final clarifiers, and ultraviolet disinfection. The industrial treatment components include a selector basin, two oxidation ditches, one final clarifier, and ultraviolet disinfection. Effluent from the two treatment components combine prior to disinfection.

The industrial and municipal solids are handled separately. The Facility has one gravity belt thickener for each treatment train, a total of three above ground storage tanks, and one below ground storage tank. Solids are land applied based on categorization of biosolids or industrial by-product.

Plans and specifications by Donohue & Associates dated June 9, 2008, are on file with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The Facility has a surface water discharge at Station SD 005 to Hawk Creek (Class 7 water) with an average wet weather (AWW) design flow of 7.51 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 <https://mpca.commentinput.com/comment/search>; 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.