

General information

Public comment period begins: January 26, 2024

Public comment period ends: February 26, 2024

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:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:
AI-Corn Clean Fuel 797 5th St Claremont, MN 55924-4706	AI-Corn Clean Fuel LLC 797 5th St Claremont, MN 55924-4706 Dodge County T107N, R18W, Section 029	Megan Dalbec Industrial Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2320 Email: megan.dalbec@state.mn.us File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942

A draft permit and supporting documentation 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: NA

Receiving water: NA

Description of AI-Corn

AI-Corn Clean Fuel LLC is a fuel grade dry-mill ethanol plant located approximately one half mile west of Claremont, Minnesota, on Highway 14. The facility will use 1.4 million tons of corn per year to produce 140 million gallons of ethanol (undenatured). The primary air emissions are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOX), carbon monoxide (CO) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). VOCs are emitted by fermentation, distillation, dried distiller's grains with solubles (DDGS), DDGS drying, ethanol loading, and VOC liquid storage and piping. Particulate matter is emitted by the DDGS drying, cooling and handling, grain receiving and handling, and vehicle traffic. NOX, SO₂ and CO are emitted by combustion sources. SO₂ is emitted from DDGS drying (sulfuric acid is used in the process). The facility will be limited to a production capacity of 140 MMGal/year of undenatured ethanol, 3.486 MMGal/year of denaturant, a throughput capacity of 1.4 million tons/year (tpy) of grain, and 440,000 tpy of DDGS.

The facility has accepted limits on the amounts of VOCs, particulate matter, NO_x and CO that could be emitted to the atmosphere, so that it is classified as a non-major source under the federal New Source Review program (40 CFR Section 52.21). The Permittee has also accepted limits to establish the facility as an area source of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).

This permit action is Part 70 Reissuance.

This permit action also authorizes construction and operation of new equipment to support an increase in ethanol production, revised permit limits, and adds new equipment for the production and shipment of 190 proof or 200 proof ethanol for hand sanitizer or surface sanitizer at the facility. The MPCA has a combined operating and construction permitting program under Minn. R. ch. 7007. Under that authority, this permit action authorizes construction. This permit action also changes the facility ownership and name from AI-Corn Clean Fuel to AI-Corn Clean Fuel, LLC, and revises performance test due dates to incorporate requested extensions.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Air permit is tentative.

The permit action is for modification and operation of the facility. The permit action is the reissuance of the Part 70 operating permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice

The project also included the removal of several emission units which offset the emissions increases from new and modified emission units, resulting in a reduced net emissions increase.

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE)/Emissions Increase in tons per year is as follows:

Pollutant	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO _x	VOCs	CO	CO _{2e}	Lead
Total Facility PTE	143	132	116	52	230	229	217	723,464	0
Emissions Increase from new and modified emission units	26	28	26	9	58	54	23	45,658	0
Net Emissions Increase	20	24	24	0	46	51	0	0	0

PM = Particulate Matter

PM_{2.5} = PM, 2.5 microns and smaller

NO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

CO = Carbon Monoxide

PM₁₀ = PM, 10 microns and smaller

SO₂ = Sulfur Dioxide

VOCs = Volatile Organic Compounds

CO_{2e} = Carbon Dioxide Equivalents as defined in Minn. R. 7007.0100

The Permittee has submitted a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

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 Megan Dalbec
520 Lafayette Rd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

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.