

General information

Public comment period begins: April 11, 2024
Public comment period ends: June 10, 2024
Current permit issued: March 29, 2012
Current permit expiration date: February 28, 2017

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:	MPCA variance contact person:
City of Nerstrand PO Box 161 Nerstrand, MN 55053-0161	Nerstrand Wastewater Treatment Facility 425 Farm St Nerstrand, MN 55053 Rice County T110N, R19W, Section 14	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	Ian Babson Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2284 Email: ian.babson@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: Cannon River

Receiving water: Unnamed Ditch to the Little Cannon River (Goodhue County) - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

This facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet weather flow of 0.042 million gallons per day (MGD);
- an average dry weather flow of 0.035 MGD; and
- a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand concentration of 270 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The application and plans indicate that the existing facility consists of 12 septic tanks, 5 recirculation tanks, 10 recirculating media filters, and ultraviolet light disinfection. The wastewater enters a divider well located at the facility and is distributed to a bank of six 16,000-gallon septic tanks followed by six 5,000-gallon septic tanks. The flow then enters five 5,000-gallon recirculation tanks in parallel and is mixed with recirculated sand filter effluent. The mixed wastewater then flows into a lift well and is pumped to each of the ten recirculating sand filter cells, each measuring 25 feet by 100 feet. Each recirculating sand filter receives a dose of wastewater for approximately 13 minutes every 75 minutes. The cells are constructed with an underdrain collection system from which flow splits back into the recirculating sand filters and the remaining portion is routed to an ultraviolet disinfection system. A heat exchange system is also provided to maintain the temperature of the wastewater. The disinfected effluent is discharged to an unnamed ditch, thence to the Little Cannon River.

The MPCA has evaluated the treatment components of the facility with regards to the total nitrite + nitrate nitrogen limit in the permit. At the time of permit issuance, the facility is operating at less than the permitted average wet weather design flow (AWWDF) of 0.042 MGD and is demonstrating the capability of meeting the total nitrite + nitrate nitrogen effluent limit of 4.0 kilograms per day as a calendar month average. As the facility approaches its AWWDF, it may need infrastructure improvements and/or operational changes to maintain compliance.

The facility is further described in plans and specifications on file with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and by the firms of Arden Environmental Engineering and TKDA.

Description of preliminary variance request determination

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) issues this document to notify the public of the Commissioner's preliminary decision regarding the variance requested by the Permittee. The Permittee has applied for a variance from the total chloride water quality standard for Class 2B waters (used to generate water quality based effluent limit) that is governed by the Permittee's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit. Upon review of the documents, the Commissioner has made the preliminary determination that the Permittee has satisfied the conditions necessary to grant the variance and as a result, the Commissioner has made the preliminary determination to grant the variance.

The preliminary determination to reissue this wastewater permit is tentative.

Water Quality Variance Public Meeting

For the chloride water quality variance, as required by Minn. R. 7050.0190, subp. 6, the Commissioner has scheduled a public meeting at the following time and location:

The public meeting will be held by online starting at 6:00 pm and ending after the presentation and questions (approximately 45 – 60 minutes).

Date and time: Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 6:00 – 7:00

WebEx Meeting web link: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m1eb70434d3b2fa5421d94b0b9f7277a7>

You may also contact Holly Mikkelson, at the address above, to request a meeting invite be forwarded to you via email, or visit the WQ Variances webpage <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/water-quality-variances> for a link to the meeting.

The meeting will have a brief presentation on the variance, an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, and a period to make verbal comments regarding the preliminary variance decision. Please notify the MPCA within 14 days after the start of this public notice if you would like to request a translator or interpreter for the upcoming public meeting.

The meeting will be recorded and made available upon request.

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:
Holly Mikkelson
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
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.