

General information

Public comment period begins: May 16, 2024
Public comment period ends: July 15, 2024
Current permit issued: December 15, 2023
Current permit expiration date: November 30, 2028

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify this permit for the rest of the five-year permit term.

Name and address of Permittee: Metropolitan Council Environmental Services 390 Robert St N St. Paul, MN 55101-1805	Facility name and location: Met Council - Seneca Wastewater Treatment Facility 3750 Plant Rd Eagan, MN 55122-1004 Dakota County T027N, R20W, Section 017	MPCA contact person: 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 File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942
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A draft modified 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: Lower Minnesota River

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

Description of permitted facility

The MCES-Seneca Wastewater Treatment facility (facility) is a Class A advanced secondary wastewater treatment facility located at NE ¼ of Section 18, Township 27 North, Range 23 West, Eagan, Dakota County, Minnesota. This facility is the principal sewage treatment facility for the communities of portions of Apple Valley, Bloomington, Burnsville, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Lakeville, and portions of Savage and Shakopee, as well as for commercial, institutional, and industrial wastewater generators in the sewershed.

The existing facility has a continuous discharge (SD001) to the Minnesota River (Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water) at river mile MI 6.5, and is designed to treat an average wet weather design flow (AWWDF) of up to 38 million gallons per day (MGD). The facility is designed to treat a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) strength of 216 milligrams per liter (mg/L) at average wet weather flow. In addition, the facility has a continuous discharge (GW001) of groundwater from the facility's permanent underdrain system to protect the structural integrity of the facility. Collected underdrain water is pumped to the cascade aerators and discharged with the main facility discharge.

The existing facility consists of a septage receiving tank, three mechanical bar screens, grit removal, two primary clarifiers, seven activated sludge basins with single stage nitrification and biological phosphorus removal, six final clarifiers, chlorination, dechlorination, and cascade effluent aeration with pure oxygen injection capability. Chemical addition is used for phosphorus removal as a backup to biological phosphorus removal. Biosolids are managed by thickening and dewatering prior to incineration in Multiple Hearth Incinerators; on-site incineration of sludge is authorized by air emission permit 03700043. Although not currently land applied, the facility maintains permit authorization to land apply or transfer for land application biosolids at agronomic rates in accordance with the provisions of this permit.

A permanent groundwater underdrain system (GW001) exists to protect the structural integrity of treatment units, buildings, and tunnels. It consists of a system of subdrains (perforated plastic pipe) along foundations and under floor slabs which remove groundwater by gravity drainage into sump pits. This groundwater is pumped from the sump pits into the cascade aeration unit and is mixed with plant effluent prior to discharging to the river.

There is one designed bypass point in the treatment system from the primary effluent channel to the chlorine contact basins, for emergency use only.

In addition to the limitations and provisions provided within this permit, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) - Mississippi Basin Total Phosphorus Permit (MN0070629) applies to phosphorus discharged from this facility. This permit includes the total phosphorus water quality based effluent limits (WQBELs) for five MCES owned and operated wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) located within the Mississippi River Basin and Lake Pepin Watershed. Individual NPDES/SDS Permits for the respective facilities contain the individual total phosphorus concentration-based limits and mass reporting requirements, as applicable, while this overall permit includes the aggregate mass-based total phosphorus limit and reporting requirements.

Permit modification

This public notice is for modification to the Met Council – Seneca WWTP draft permit. Only the following changes are open for comment during the public notice period.

Monitoring station SD 004 has been added to the permit to account for an additional industrial stormwater discharge. The language mirrors the text already in the permit for monitoring station SD 003. An additional annual discharge monitoring report is required for the new monitoring station.

The preliminary determination to modify 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 modified 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 modified permit.
- 2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft modified 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.