

General information

Public comment period begins: June 3, 2024

Public comment period ends: July 3, 2024

Name and address of Permittee:

Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Producers-
MnVAP
7410 Highway 23 SW
Raymond, MN 56201

Facility name and location:

Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Producers-
MnVAP
7410 Highway 23 SW
Raymond, MN 56201
Kandiyohi County

MPCA contact person:

Benjamin Wenkel
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-757-2603
Email: benjamin.wenkel@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.

Description of Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Producers

Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Producers (MnVAP) operates an animal feed manufacturing plant located on State Highway 23 southwest of Willmar and near the unincorporated community of Priam, MN. MnVAP receives baled alfalfa via truck from local farmers, which is unloaded using a front-end loader and stored in piles on-site. Alfalfa processing begins when the bales are loaded into the shredder by the front-end loader where it is subsequently shredded, ground, and dried in a natural-gas-fired hay dryer. The pellet milling processing includes introducing shredded hay into a hopper where it is then blended, steam-conditioned, and forced through dies to create pellets. After this, the pellets are cooled and dried in pellet coolers with ambient air. Pellets are stored in bins on site and are loaded into either trucks, railcars, or bags for off-site shipment.

The main pollutants of concern are particulate matter PM, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. MnVAP controls all particulate matter sources with three baghouses and two cyclones at all times. MnVAP is a synthetic minor source under New Source Review (NSR), a major source under Part 70, and an area source of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).

The permit action is for 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.

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE) 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	229	231	228	3.95	34.2	2.63	19.7	33,525	0.00012

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 is not required to submit a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Air 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:
Benjamin Wenkel
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd.
St. 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.