

General information

Public comment period begins: July 18, 2024
Public comment period ends: September 16, 2024
Current permit issued: November 29, 2010
Current permit expiration date: October 31, 2015

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 Pelican Rapids PO Box 350 Pelican Rapids, MN 56572-0350	Pelican Rapids Wastewater Treatment Facility 302 1st Ave NW Pelican Rapids, MN 56572 Otter Tail County T136N, R43W, Section 027	Laura Lacquement Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 714 Lake Ave, Ste 220 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Phone: 218-846-8116 Email: laura.lacquement@state.mn.us File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942	Ian Babson Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd N Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2284 Email: ian.babson@state.mn.us

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: Otter Tail River

Receiving water: Pelican River

Description of Pelican Rapids Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Pelican Rapids Wastewater Treatment Facility (facility) is located at 302 1st Ave NW, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota 56572, Otter Tail County.

The existing facility has a controlled discharge from SD 003 from the pond system and continuous discharge from SD 002 from the mechanical treatment system.

The total facility is designed to treat:

- total average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.91 million gallons per day (MGD).

The pond treatment facility is designed to treat:

- an AWW flow of 0.6 MGD; and
- five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 684 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The mechanical treatment facility is designed to treat:

- an AWW flow of 0.771 MGD;
- an average dry weather (ADW) flow of 0.26 MGD;
- a peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 1.07 MGD;
- CBOD₅ of 3,090 pounds per day (lb/day); and
- total suspended solids (TSS) of 1,565 lb/day.

The pond treatment facility consists of three anaerobic ponds with a total acreage of 6.46 acres, one 14.75 equalization pond, chemical addition for pH adjustment and chemical addition for phosphorus removal. Flow from the anaerobic ponds goes to the equalization pond or the mechanical facility, described below. There are eight ground water monitoring wells as well. GW 009 is a monitoring location for the drain tile under the anaerobic pond system.

The mechanical treatment facility consists of a mechanical fine bar screen, vortex grit removal, two primary clarifiers, two secondary clarifiers, two Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) systems with reactor units, chemical storage and feed, chlorine and dechlorination, chemical addition for pH adjustment, effluent flow monitoring, four aerobic digesters with sixty-day detention time each, two anaerobic digesters and a biosolids storage tank.

The mechanical treatment system has a manually controlled and locked bypass structure located at the main lift station. This structure has the capability of discharging untreated wastewater to the Pelican River. The 14.75-acre equalization pond has a valved, 10-inch outlet from a control structure in the south dike of the pond. This was the original outlet for the pond and connects to a storm sewer that drains to the Pelican River.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Wastewater permit is tentative.

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 grant this variance request 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 p.m. and ending after the presentation and questions (approximately 45 – 60 minutes).

Date and time: September 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting link: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/events-and-meetings/city-of-pelican-rapids-variance-request-chloride-in-wastewater-2024-09-04>

You may also contact Laura Lacquement, 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.

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:
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
c/o Laura Lacquement
714 Lake Ave, Ste 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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.