

General information

Public comment period begins: July 23, 2024
Public comment period ends: August 22, 2024
Current permit issued: July 16, 2018
Current permit expiration date: April 30, 2023

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:
Benton Utilities LLC 3636 Quail Rd NE Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-9444	Benton Utilities Wastewater Treatment Facility 221 85 th St NE Rice, MN 56367 Benton County T037N, R31W, Section 023	Nancy Heskett Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 7381 Airport View Dr SW Rochester, MN 55902 Phone: 507-206-2605 Email: nancy.heskett@state.mn.us File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942

A draft 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: Mississippi River - Sartell

Receiving water: Unnumbered Wetland - Class 2D, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge to a partially ditched, unnamed wetland complex (palustrine/inland wetland), a Class 2D, 3D, 4C, 5, 6 Water. The discharge flows from the wetland to an unnamed intermittent stream (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 Water) which is a tributary to Little Rock Creek (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 Water). The facility is a Class C.

The facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet-weather (AWW) flow of 0.025 million gallons per day (MGD);
- a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 267 mg/L; and
- total suspended solids (TSS) of 315 mg/L.

The existing facility consists of two 15,000-gallon septic tanks, a 10,000-gallon filter tank 10,000-gallon recirculation tank, an 8,400 square foot vertical flow wetland with forced bed aeration, a 10,000-gallon dosing tank, and a 10,440 square foot single pass sand filter, and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection.

The facility will consist of two 15,000-gallon septic tanks, a 10,000-gallon filter tank, 20,000 gallons of equalization, two moving bed biofilm reactor (MBBR) tanks each being 6,000 gallons, a chemical mixing vault for phosphorus removal, two 6,000-gallon clarifiers, UV disinfection, and a control building. This project is Phase 1 of a 3-phase project.

The preliminary determination to reissue 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 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:
Nancy Heskett
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7381 Airport View Dr SW
Rochester, MN 55902

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.