

Public Notice of intent to Issue Wastewater Permit and TMDL Wasteload Allocations

Wastewater
Permit MN0071978

General information

Public comment period begins: July 24, 2024

Public comment period ends: September 23, 2024

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to issue this permit for a term of approximately five years. In conjunction with the reissuance of this permit, the MPCA Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify the Missouri River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) wasteload allocations (WLAs) for *E.coli* and total suspended solids (TSS) and the Rock River Watershed Fecal Coliform and Turbidity TMDL WLAs for fecal coliform and TSS.

Name and address of Permittee:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:	TDML Project Manager
Reading Sewer Service District PO Box 757 Worthington, MN 56187-0757	Reading Wastewater Treatment Facility 27774 210th Street Reading, MN 56165 Nobles County	Ashley Wahl Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200 Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: 507-476-4264 Email: ashley.wahl@state.mn.us	Paul Wymar Watershed Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200 Marshall, MN 56258 Phone: 507-476-4282 Email: paul.wymar@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 and TMDL related documents 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: Des Moines River - Headwaters

Receiving water: Judicial Ditch 11B - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The proposed facility will have a controlled discharge from (SD 001). This is a Class D facility.

The facility will be designed to treat:

- an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 18,700 gallons per day (gpd);
- five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 33.2 pounds per day (lb/d); and
- total suspended solids (TSS) of 37.6 lb/d.

The proposed facility will consist of a collection system, lift station, force main, and stabilization pond system. The stabilization pond system will consist of a 1.6-acre primary pond, and 1.1-acre secondary pond (measured at mean operating depth), each with an operating range of two to six feet from pond bottom.

The preliminary determination to issue this wastewater permit and is tentative.

Description of TMDL Wasteload Allocation Modifications

- Amendment to the [Missouri River Basin TMDL](#)
EPA approved February 15, 2018
- Amendment to the [Rock River Watershed Fecal Coliform and Turbidity TMDL](#)
EPA approved April 23, 2008

The Community of Reading is proposing to build a two-cell stabilization pond system for wastewater treatment. The facility, as proposed in the above description, will be permitted a fecal coliform limit of 200 organisms per 100ml and total suspended solids limits of 45 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and 30.5 kilograms per day (kg/day).

On February 15, 2018, the Missouri River Basin TMDL was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. On April 23, 2008, the Rock River Watershed Fecal Coliform and Turbidity TMDL was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs), the *E. coli* wasteload allocations (WLAs) were calculated by multiplying AWW design flow for continuously discharging WWTFs, or the maximum permitted discharge rate for controlled discharge pond facilities by the 126 organisms per 100 milliliters (ml) water quality standard. The facility's fecal coliform effluent limit is intended to ensure complete to near complete effluent disinfection. As long as the facility discharges at or below this permit limit, the discharge will not contribute to violations of the water quality standard regardless of the fecal coliform load. For TSS, WLAs were calculated by multiplying the maximum daily discharge rate of six inches per day from the secondary pond by the permitted concentration limit of 45 mg/L. All the WLAs are based on TSS concentration limits less than or equal to the TSS standard of 65 mg/L. Facilities that discharge consistent with the WLAs are not a cause for in-stream exceedances of the TSS standard within their receiving water bodies.

An analysis of the effects of expanded wasteload allocations, prepared by Tetrtech for the Zumbro River Turbidity TMDL (Cleland 2011), demonstrates that current discharges can be expanded and new NPDES discharges can be added while maintaining water quality standards; provided the permitted NPDES/SDS effluent concentrations remain at or below the in-stream concentration targets.

***E. coli* (Missouri River Basin TMDL)**

Since this facility did not exist at the time of TMDL approval, this facility was not assigned a WLA. Therefore, the WLA for *E. coli* is currently zero. The maximum drawdown rate of six inches per day from the secondary pond is 0.179 mgd, which is equivalent to 0.2769 cubic feet per second (cfs). At 0.179 mgd, the *E. coli* WLA for the TMDL would be 0.854 billion organisms per day (b-org/day).

This NPDES/SDS Permit authorizes the expansion of the WLA for the facility. Expansion of the WLA will not contribute to the *E. coli* impairments because the proposed NPDES/SDS permit's fecal coliform permitted discharge limit of 200 organisms per 100 ml is consistent with the water quality standard.

	Approved Wasteload Allocation	Flow Increase	<i>E. coli</i> Load Increase	Modified Wasteload Allocation
Reading WWTF WLA Expansion	0 b-org/day	0.2769 cfs	0.854 b-org/day	0.854 b-org/day
Missouri River Loading Capacity Expansion		0.2769 cfs	0.854 b-org/day	

Fecal Coliform (Rock River Watershed Fecal Coliform and Turbidity TMDL)

Since this facility did not exist at the time of TMDL approval, this facility was not assigned a WLA. Therefore, the WLA for fecal coliform is currently zero. The maximum drawdown rate of six inches per day from the secondary pond is 0.179 mgd, which is equivalent to 0.2769 cubic feet per second (cfs). At 0.179 mgd, the fecal coliform WLA for the TMDL would be 0.0014 trillion organisms per day (t-org/day).

	Approved Wasteload Allocation	Flow Increase	Fecal Coliform Load Increase	Modified Wasteload Allocation
Reading WWTF WLA Expansion	0 t-org/day	0.2769 cfs	0.0014 t-org/day	0.0014 t-org/day
Rock River Loading Capacity Expansion		0.2769 cfs	0.0014 t-org/day	

Total Suspended Solids (Missouri River Basin TMDL and Rock River Watershed Fecal Coliform and Turbidity TMDL)

As stated above, since this facility did not exist at the time of TMDL approvals, this facility was not assigned WLAs. Therefore, the WLAs for TSS are currently zero. The maximum drawdown rate of six inches per day from the secondary pond is 0.179 mgd, which is equivalent to 0.2769 cubic feet per second (cfs). At 0.179 mgd, the TSS WLA for the TMDLs would be 30.5 kg/day. 30.5 kg/day is equivalent to 0.034 tons/day.

This NPDES/SDS permit authorizes the expansion of the WLAs for the facility. Expansion of the WLAs will not contribute to the TSS impairments because the NPDES/SDS permit's 45 mg/L TSS discharge limit will ensure that the discharge does not have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the applicable 65 mg/L TSS water quality standard.

	Approved Wasteload Allocation	Flow Increase	TSS Loading Capacity Increase	Modified Wasteload Allocation
Reading WWTF WLA Expansion	0 tons/day	0.2769 cfs	0.034 tons/day	0.034 tons/day
Rock River and Missouri River Loading Capacity Expansion		0.2769 cfs	0.034 tons/day	

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:
 Ashley Wahl
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200
 Marshall, MN 56258

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.