

General information

Public comment period begins: July 25, 2024
Public comment period ends: September 23, 2024
Current permit issued: May 28, 2009
Current permit expiration date: April 30, 2014

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:
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services 390 Robert St N Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805	Met Council - Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility 6957 County Rd 101 E Shakopee, MN 55379 Scott County T115N, R22W, Section 02	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

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: Lower Minnesota River

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

Description of permitted facility

The Met Council - Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility (facility) is located in the SE ¼ of Section 2, Township 115 North, Range 22 West, Scott County, Minnesota. This facility is the principal sewage treatment facility for the southwest metropolitan area serving portions of 31 communities, including the cities of Chanhassen, Chaska, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Prior Lake, and Shakopee, as well as commercial, institutional, and industrial wastewater generators.

Existing Facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge from station SD 002 to the Minnesota River. The facility is a Class A.

The facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 42 million gallons per day (MGD);
- an average dry weather (ADW) flow of 32 MGD; and
- a five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 250 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The existing facility consists of four mechanical bar screens, two grit removal systems, eight primary clarifiers, eight conventional plug flow activated sludge basins being operated for single stage nitrification and biological phosphorus removal, eight secondary clarifiers, an aerated polishing pond, chlorination and dechlorination facilities, an effluent pumping station, and cascade aeration.

The aerated polishing pond can act as a bypass point in the event that the pond needs to be removed from service for maintenance activities. Any bypass around this final pond would be routed through station SD 002 after complete treatment and aeration.

Biosolids treatment and handling consists of four gravity thickeners and two sludge screens for primary sludge, three anaerobic digesters, two gravity belt thickeners, sludge storage, and two centrifuges. Biosolids are further treated by heat drying and pelletizing for land application as Exceptional Quality Biosolids.

Proposed Facility

Construction Project Phase 1

Modification of the aeration tanks to increase secondary treatment process stability, efficiency, and operability; replacement of air mixing in the existing aeration tanks; addition of 2 secondary clarifiers, a mixed liquor distribution structure and a secondary effluent channel/pipeline to increase capacity.

Expansion of the digestion complex by the addition of one digester.

Renewal of solids drying facilities within an expansion to Final Stabilization Facilities (FSF) building.

Construction Project Phase 2

New primary treatment complex, including the addition of 2 primary clarifiers and piping to expand primary treatment capacity; renewal of existing primary clarifiers, and replacement of grit removal equipment retrofitted in Construction Project Phase 1.

Addition of tertiary filtration.

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:
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 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.