

General information

Public comment period begins: September 13, 2024
Public comment period ends: October 14, 2024
Current permit issued: September 11, 2023
Current permit expiration date: September 11, 2025

Name and address of Permittee: Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy 414 Nicollet Mall # GO2 Minneapolis, MN 55401-1927 Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency; Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency 500 1st Ave SW Rochester, MN 55902-3303	Facility name and location: Xcel Energy - Sherburne County Generating Plant 13999 Industrial Blvd Becker, MN 55308-8800 Sherburne County T034N, R29W, Section 035	MPCA contact person: Roderick Manuzon Industrial Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd Saint Paul, MN, 55155 Phone: 651-757-2349 Email: roderick.manuzon@state.mn.us File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942
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A draft permit and supporting documentation 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: NA

Receiving water: NA

Description of permitted facility

The Xcel Energy (Permittee) Sherburne County Generating Plant (facility) is a coal-fired electric generating plant. The facility has a total nameplate gross electrical output rating of 1,658 MW. The facility is composed of two coal-fired boilers, coal handling equipment, ash handling equipment, lime handling equipment, mercury control sorbent handling equipment, two dual-fuel (distillate fuel oil and natural gas)-fired auxiliary boilers, fugitive particulate matter sources (including an ash pond and an ash landfill), and five emergency engines. Steam for electrical power generation is provided by its two boilers. The main pollutants of concern are particulate matter, particulate matter less than 10 microns, particulate matter less than 2.5 microns, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and carbon dioxide equivalent emitted from the two coal-fired boilers and two dual-fuel (distillate fuel oil and natural gas)-fired auxiliary boilers.

This permit action combines Major and Administrative Amendments and allows construction and changes in the modes of operation. The Permittee will be installing eight Evaporative Fluid Cooler units for its future synchronous condensers. They will also be removing equipment associated with Unit 2, and all requirements applying to this unit and associated equipment, including a revised mercury limit. The Permittee will be reducing its' daily limits for trucks hauling ash from Unit 3 silo to the Unit 3 ash landfill and offsite to facilitate Xcel's process of hauling landfill leachate to public treatment works. Based on recent air dispersion modeling, the Permittee will also be reducing the permitted emission rates for 1-hour SO₂ emission rates for Boiler 1 to 1,900 lb/hr and Boiler 3 to 8,300 lb/hr. This permit action also incorporates a deadline extension for the performance testing compliance dates for filterable PM and opacity for its coal crushers.

The permit action is for modification and operation of the facility. The permit action is a major amendment of the Part 70 operating permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice.

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE) and Emissions Increase 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	4,200	1,220	411	12,400	18,200	259	2070	15,100,000	0

Emissions Increase from [new [and modified] emission units	9.63	2.21	0.432						
Net Emissions Increase	9.63	2.21	0.432						

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 has submitted a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

The preliminary determination to amend 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:
 Roderick Manuzon
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 520 Lafayette Road No
 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.