

General information

Public comment period begins: September 16, 2024

Public comment period ends: October 16, 2024

Current permit issued: February 26, 2018

Name and address of Permittee:

REG Albert Lea LLC
 15200 780th Ave
 Albert Lea, MN 56007-7082

Facility name and location:

REG Albert Lea LLC
 15200 780th Ave
 Albert Lea, MN 56007-7082
 Freeborn County

MPCA contact person:

Miles Bergeson
 Industrial Division
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 520 Lafayette Road North
 Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194
 Phone: 651-556-0574
 Email: miles.bergeson@state.mn.us

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
 844-828-0942

A draft permit and supporting documentation 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.

Description of permittee facility

REG Albert Lea, LLC (REG) is a biodiesel manufacturing plant located near Albert Lea, Minnesota. The facility produces biodiesel from soybean oil, methanol, and lower quality feedstocks such as used cooking oil, inedible corn oil, and lower quality animal fats. Currently, the facility is restricted by a production permit limit of 44,000,000 gallons of biodiesel per year.

The facility has accepted limits on the amount of methanol that could be emitted to the atmosphere so that it is classified as a minor source under the federal National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and Part 70 programs. The main sources of methanol emissions are from the distillation process and equipment leaks. A flare controls volatile organic compounds (VOC) and hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions from the process equipment and four storage tanks. REG is a true minor source under the federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program.

The permit action is for modification and operation of the facility. The permit action is a major amendment; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice. This permit action increases REG's limit on maximum biodiesel production rate from 44 million gallons per year to 50 million gallons per year. In addition, REG's methanol limit on the process equipment and four storage tanks has been increased from 1.25 tons per year to 1.40 tons per year to account for the increase in biodiesel production rate at the facility. REG will be installing an economizer on each of the facility's two hot oil heaters that will increase the efficiency of the heaters, increase the process heat of the heaters, and allows the facility to achieve the increase in biodiesel production. The increase in process heat is expected to result in an increase in nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and a decrease in carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, while the increase in efficiency will decrease the fuel use of the heaters.

The preliminary determination to amend this Air permit is tentative.

A summary of the Emissions Increase in tons per year is as follows:

Pollutant	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO _x	VOC	CO	CO _{2e}	Lead	HAP – Single	HAP - Total
Emissions Increase from modified limits	2.85	2.74	2.34	0.184	35.3	13.8	20.4	36,700	0.00015	3.05	4.67

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

VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds

CO_{2e} = Carbon Dioxide Equivalents as defined in Minn. R. 7007.0100

The Permittee is not required to submit a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

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:
Miles Bergeson
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194

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.