

General information

Public comment period begins: September 25, 2024

Public comment period ends: November 12, 2024

Current permit issued: January 8, 2018

Current permit expiration date: January 8, 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:
Sofidel America Corp. 100 Central Ave Duluth, Minnesota 55807-2462	Sofidel America Corp. 100 Central Ave Duluth, MN 55807-2462 St. Louis County T049N, R14W, Section 007	John Chikkala Resource Management and Assistance Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2271 Email: john.chikkala@state.mn.us File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942

A draft permit, permit application/fact sheet are available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices>. 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/mpca-offices>) 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.

Receiving water: NA

Description of Sofidel America Corp. Hazardous Waste Landfill (Vault)

This Permit is issued for the Vault located on three (3) acres on the east side of Central Avenue between vacated Main and Nicollet Streets in the City of Duluth. The location of the Vault is shown on the Facility Map. The Vault was constructed by an independent contractor for the State of Minnesota as part of a remedial action plan to clean-up contaminated soils at the Union Compressed Steel Company Scrapyard Site located in the West Duluth section of the City of Duluth, Minnesota. The Vault holds approximately 23,000 cubic yards of waste material, primarily soil and fill excavated from the Union Compressed Steel Company Scrapyard Site, and contains railroad ties and demolition debris. The waste materials contain lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Only lead (Pb) occurs in concentrations sufficient to classify the material as hazardous waste.

The Vault has a double liner and a leachate collection system to prevent the release of leachate from the waste materials to the underlying soils or groundwater. The lower liner of the Vault is compacted clay with a thickness of two (2) feet. The upper liner is 60-mil (60 thousandths of an inch) high-density polyethylene.

A cap for the Vault was constructed to isolate the waste from the environment and to prevent precipitation from infiltrating into the waste material. The cap consists of layers of approximately 12 inches of sand, a 60 mil high-density polyethylene layer, approximately 12 inches of fill and topsoil, and a vegetative cover of seeded and manicured grass. Four (4) groundwater monitoring wells are installed around the Vault. Groundwater samples are collected from these locations to characterize the groundwater conditions in the vicinity of the Vault.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Hazardous Waste 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:
John Chikkala, P.E.
Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 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.