

General information

Public comment period begins: October 17, 2024

Public comment period ends: October 31, 2024

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to certify the referenced project, with conditions, and has preliminarily determined that the project will satisfy the antidegradation standards in Minn. R. 7050.0265.

Name and address of Applicant:

Jodi Teich, County Engineer
Stearns County Highway Department
455 28th Avenue S
Waite Park, MN 56387

Project name and location (county):

2024-00570-MWV - 30th/75th Avenue
reconstruction project (SAP 073-599-
001), Stearns County

MPCA contact person:

Tim Schwarz
Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: 651-757-2426
Email: timothy.schwarz@state.mn.us

Federal Permitting Agency:

Morgan Vinyard, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
332 Minnesota St, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

A draft Section 401 Water Quality Certification with antidegradation determination is available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices> or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft certification 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 time identified above.

Major Watershed: Mississippi River - Sartell

Description of Issuance for 401 Water Quality Certification for 30th/75th Avenue reconstruction project

The Stearns County Highway Department proposes to reconstruct approximately 5.1 miles of 30th/75th Avenue (Town Line Road) in Stearns County near Saint Stephen. The reconstructed roadway will generally follow the existing roadway's centerline or to move it further east (especially along County Ditch 13) to minimize impacts. The new roadway will consist of two 11-foot-wide lanes, 6-foot-wide paved shoulders and a 30-foot clear zone with 4:1 slopes. Culvert replacements, including upsizing to improve hydraulic conditions, will take place at four locations on County Ditch 13. The proposed project will permanently fill 7.48 acres of wetlands, permanently excavate 5.04 acres of wetlands, temporarily excavate 10.19 acres of wetlands, and impact 358 linear feet (0.06 acres) of County Ditch 13. The county will mitigate the impacts from construction by purchasing wetland credits from the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program.

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 certification and antidegradation determination.
- (2) Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
- (3) Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Submitting written comments

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or online you must state:

- (1) Your interest in the request for 401 water quality certification or the draft 401 water quality certification.
- (2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft 401 water quality certification 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.