

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** November 8, 2024

**Public comment period ends:** January 7, 2025

**Current permit issued:** June 11, 2018

**Current permit expiration date:** May 31, 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:**

Clear Lake-Clearwater Sewer  
Authority  
6491 River Rd SE  
Clear Lake, MN 55319

**Facility name and location:**

Clear Lake/Clearwater Wastewater  
Treatment Facility  
6491 River Rd SE  
Clear Lake, MN 55319-9600  
Sherburne County  
T034N, R30W, Section 024

**MPCA contact person:**

Jon Kolstad  
Municipal Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
7678 College Rd, Ste 105  
Baxter, MN 56425  
Phone: 218-316-3924  
Email: [jon.kolstad@state.mn.us](mailto:jon.kolstad@state.mn.us)

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

A draft permit 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:** Mississippi River - St. Cloud

**Receiving water:** Mississippi River - Class 1C, 2Bdg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

## Description of Clear Lake/Clearwater Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Clear Lake/Clearwater Sewer Authority Wastewater Treatment facility (facility) has a continuous discharge from SD 001. The facility is a Class A.

The facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.484 million gallons per day (MGD);
- five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) of 949 pounds per day (lb/day);
- total suspended solids (TSS) of 949 lb/day;
- total phosphorus (TP) of 28 lb/day; and
- total nitrogen (TN) of 161 lb/day.

The facility consists of two collection systems, six lift stations, an aerated pond treatment train which includes three aerated pond cells consisting of 1.39, 0.62, and 0.76 acres respectively, a stilling pond at 1.02 acres, a Membrane BioReactor (MBR) treatment train which includes three static fine screens, grit removal, one anoxic basin and two aeration basins with chemical addition for phosphorus removal, four membrane filter tanks with two cassettes in each tank, and a chlorine contact basin for disinfection, followed by dechlorination. In May through October, biosolids handling consists of a Biobag geotextile dewatering system and the resulting dewatered supernatant is returned to primary treatment. In November through April, biosolids are treated in the first cell of the aerated pond system

Other components that are not utilized on a regular basis but are still present and connected to the system should they be needed include two traveling bridge sand filters with chlorine addition to control algae, two aerobic sludge digesters, a 0.46 million gallons (MG) biosolids storage tank, and four Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) each with a 0.08-acre surface area to be used as an alternative discharge location during non-frozen periods. The RIBs have a combined design AWW flow of 175,000 gpd. The facility is required to meet a 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) total nitrogen limit prior to discharging to the RIBs.

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:

Jon Kolstad  
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.