

General information

Public comment period begins: January 17, 2025
Public comment period ends: February 18, 2025
Current permit issued: December 12, 2022
Current permit expiration date: December 12, 2027

Name and address of Permittee:

Valero Renewable Fuels Co. LLC -
Welcome Plant
1444 120th St
Welcome, MN 56181-1331

Facility name and location:

Valero Renewable Fuels Co LLC -
Welcome Plant
1444 120th St
Welcome, MN 56181-1331
Martin County
T102N, R31W, Section 005

MPCA contact person:

Michael Van Der Wal
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-757-2755
Email: michael.vanderwal@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: NA

Receiving water: NA

Description of Valero Renewable Fuels Company, LLC

Valero Renewable Fuels Company, LLC (Valero) owns and operates a dry mill fuel ethanol facility near Welcome, Minnesota (Valero Welcome Plant). The facility is permitted to produce 192 million gallons of 200 proof ethanol annually.

The primary emissions are particulate matter, particulate matter less than 10 microns, and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns emitted from grain receiving, milling, handling of dry distillers grains with solubles (DDGS), and drying combustion of natural gas, and vehicle traffic on paved and unpaved roads. Nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and greenhouse gases are emitted from the combustion of natural gas. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and hazardous air pollutants are emitted from combustion of natural gas, fermentation, distillation, DDGS drying, wetcake production and storage, ethanol loadout, product storage tanks, and volatile organic liquid equipment leaks.

The facility fires pipeline-quality natural gas in four conventional DDGS dryers and two thermal oxidizers with heat recovery steam generators (TO/HRSG). DDGS Dryer emissions are controlled by the two TO/HRSGs. The TO/HRSGs also consume the air used in the DDGS Coolers and gases evolved from the distillation process. The facility uses a wet scrubber to remove VOC produced by the fermentation process before exhausting emissions into the atmosphere. Dust collection systems are used for handling materials typical to the industry. The denatured ethanol product is typically loaded out to both trucks and rail cars, and emissions from the loadout process are controlled by a vapor combustion unit.

This permit action incorporates operating conditions required by three Notices of Compliance, dated July 24th, 2023, October 4th, 2023, and May 14, 2024. The permit also incorporates changes made under minor amendment applications received on March 1st, 2023 and April 6th, 2023.

The preliminary determination to amend this Air permit is tentative.

The permit action is for modification and operation of the facility. The permit action is a major amendment for a mandatory permit reopening; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice. Pursuant to Minn. R. 7007.1600, subp. 3, only the portions of

the permit that are being amended are open for public comment or consideration at a meeting or hearing. Comments on other portions of the permit will not be considered by the MPCA when making the decision on whether to issue the permit.

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE)/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	190	82	61	40	244	217	189	875,000	0.001
Emissions Increase from new emission units	0.29	0.07	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Emissions Increase	0.29	0.07	0.07	0	0	0	0	0	0

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 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:

Michael Van Der Wal
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 520 Lafayette Rd
 Saint 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.