

General information

Public comment period begins: February 3, 2025

Public comment period ends: February 17, 2025

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: Ryan Thilges, B.E. County Engineer Blue Earth County Public Works Dept 35 Map Drive Mankato, Minnesota 56001	Project name and location (county): 597 th Avenue, Bridge #90555 Replacement Project, Blue Earth County	MPCA contact person: Bill Wilde, Project Manager Resources Management and Resources Div. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, Minnesota 55155 Phone: 651-757-2825 Email: William.wilde@state.mn.us
Federal Permitting Agency: Morgan Papenhouse Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brookfield Office 250 N. Sunnyslope Road, Suite 296 Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005		

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: Minnesota River

Description of Issuance for 401 Water Quality Certification for Blue Earth County 597th Avenue, Bridge #9055 Replacement Project #2024-00565-MMP

The Blue Earth County Public Works Department proposed Bridge #90555 replacement and County Ditch #96 (Big Slough) alignment. The bridge is located along 597th Avenue southeast of Mapleton, Minnesota. The project will impact 0.18 acres of Type 1 wetlands and will be mitigated at a 2:1 replacement ratio through the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP), for a total of 0.36 mitigation credits. This mitigation will be in the same Bank Service Area (BSA) as the project. Compensatory mitigation will be maintained and monitored by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. In addition, there will be 0.21 acre of impact to County Ditch #96 for alignment. No mitigation is required. The project will either maintain or improve water quality for County Ditch #96 after completion.

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.