

General information

Public comment period begins: February 12, 2025

Public comment period ends: April 14, 2025

Current permit issued: June 06, 2019

Current permit expiration date: May 31, 2024

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:

City of Luverne
PO Box 659
Luverne, MN 56156-0659

Facility name and location:

Luverne Wastewater Treatment Facility
400 Redbird Rd
Luverne, MN 56156
Rock County
T102N, R45W, Section 11

MPCA contact person:

Ashley Wahl
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: 507-476-4264
Email: ashley.wahl@state.mn.us

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

A draft permit and fact sheet are 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: Rock River

Receiving water: Rock River - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge from surface discharge station SD 002. The facility is a Class A.

The facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 2.235 million gallons per day (mgd)
- An average dry weather (ADW) flow of 1.440 mgd
- A peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 2.990 mgd
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 3,095 pounds per day (lbs/day)
- Total suspended solids (TSS) of 2,520 lbs/day
- Total phosphorus (TP) of 76 lbs/day
- Total nitrogen (TN) of 295 lbs/day

Influent enters the facility's pre-treatment building via a 24-inch PVC pipe, which has a maximum capacity of 4.636 mgd. Pretreatment consists of a perforated screen followed by a vortex grit chamber. Screenings are compressed and dewatered by a screw compactor, and grit is dewatered by a dewatering screw.

After pretreatment, wastewater flows into the influent pumping station wet well. Flow is then pumped into a splitter box to each of the two separate but identical biological treatment trains. Each train consists of a primary clarifier, oxidation ditch, and final clarifier where thereafter the trains merge back into the disinfection tank. If the influent flow rate exceeds the capacity of the influent pumping station, it overflows to a bypass pumping station which diverts the excess flow to either of the oxidation ditches.

The disinfected water is then dechlorinated prior to being discharged to the Rock River. The flow is discharged to the Rock River by gravity except during high river levels, during which an effluent lift station pumps the flows to the river.

Waste biosolids from both primary clarifiers are sent to an anaerobic digester for digestion. The biosolids from the final clarifiers downstream are dissolved in an air flotation thickener prior to being sent to the anaerobic digester for digestion with the primary waste biosolids.

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:

Ashley Wahl
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
504 Fairground Rd, Ste 200
Marshall, MN 56258

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.