

General information

Public comment period begins: April 18, 2025
Public comment period ends: June 17, 2025
Current permit issued: March 15, 2020
Current permit expiration date: February 28, 2025

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:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:	MPCA variance contact person:
City of Avon PO Box 69 Avon, MN 56310-0069	Avon Wastewater Treatment Facility 300 Angelfish Ave Avon, MN 56310 Stearns County T125N, R30W, Section 022	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	Ian Babson Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd Norht Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2284 Email: ian.babson@state.mn.us

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: Mississippi River - Sartell

Receiving water: Spunk Creek - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

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

The facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.422 million gallons per day (mgd)
- An average dry weather (ADW) flow of 0.357 mgd
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 968 pounds per day (lb/d)
- Total suspended solids (TSS) of 1,052 lb/d
- Total phosphorus (TP) of 35 lb/d
- Ammonia nitrogen of 158 lb/d

The facility consists of flow equalization, bar screen, grit removal, two activated sludge units (extended aeration, oxidation ditches) with anaerobic selector tanks, two final clarifiers, and two effluent sand filters followed by UV disinfection. The facility also has a 3.1-acre (measured at the four-foot operating depth) stabilization pond available for flow equalization. The facility handles solids through the use of two aerated biosolids holding tanks and biosolids reed beds.

The preliminary determination to reissue this wastewater permit is tentative.

Chloride Variance Eligibility Reevaluation

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) issues this document to notify the public of the MPCA's preliminary decision regarding the reevaluation of a 15-year chloride variance granted to the Permittee by the Environmental Protection Agency on February 25, 2020 and issued by the MPCA March 15, 2020. The Permittee has applied for the reevaluation of the terms of a variance from the total chloride water quality standard for Class 2B waters (used to generate water quality based effluent limit) that is governed by the Permittee's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit. Upon review of the documents, the MPCA has made the preliminary determination that the Permittee has satisfied the conditions necessary to continue the variance during the next permit term.

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 Fairgrounds 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.