

General information

Public comment period begins: May 2, 2025
Public comment period ends: July 1, 2025
Current permit issued: December 29, 2021
Current permit expiration date: November 30, 2026

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 Okabena
PO Box 8
Okabena, MN 56161-0008

Facility name and location:

Okabena Wastewater Treatment Facility
Honeysuckle Ln
Okabena, MN 56161
Jackson County
T103N, R37W, Section 07

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 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: Des Moines River - Headwaters

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

Description of Permitted Facility

The existing facility has a controlled discharge from SD 001. The facility is a Class D.

The facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.031 million gallons per day (mgd)
- 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 213 milligrams per liter (mg/L)

The existing facility consists of a lift station and three-cell stabilization pond system. The system consists of approximately 2,460 feet of six-inch force main, two primary pond cells, each with surface areas of 1.44 acres at mean operation depth, a secondary pond cell with a surface area of 1.5 acres at mean operating depth, and a 280-foot 12-inch outfall pipe.

The proposed facility will continue to have a controlled discharge from SD 001. The facility will continue to be a Class D.

The facility will be designed to treat:

- An AWW flow of 0.0308 mgd
- CBOD₅ of 63 pounds per day (lb/d) or 247 mg/L at design flow

The proposed facility will consist of a lift station and three-cell stabilization pond system with two primary pond cells and a secondary pond cell. The primary cells will have surface areas of 1.47 and 1.41 acres, respectively, and the secondary cell will have a surface area of 1.37 acres, each measured at the four-foot mean operating depth as they will be operated from two to six feet. The pond system will provide a total detention time of 180 days at design flow. The pond system will have a tile line monitoring station (GW 001).

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.