

General information

Public comment period begins: June 5, 2025
Public comment period ends: August 4, 2025
Current permit issued: November 15, 2020
Current permit expiration date: October 31, 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:
Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District 2201 Nevada St SW Alexandria, MN 56308	Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District 2201 Nevada St SW Alexandria, MN 56308-9152 Douglas County T128N, R38W, Section 025	Laura Lacquement Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 714 Lake Ave, Ste 220 Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 Phone: 218-846-8116 Email: laura.lacquement@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 N Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2327 Email: ian.babson@state.mn.us

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: Long Prairie River

Receiving water: Lake Winona - Class 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District

Existing facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge (SD 001) to Lake Winona (Class 2B, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water). The facility is a Class A facility.

The facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 4.7 million gallons per day (mgd);
- five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 6,900 pounds per day (lb/day);
- total suspended solids (TSS) of 6,000 lb/day;
- total phosphorus (TP) of 210 lb/day; and
- total ammonia nitrogen of 470 lb/day.

The existing facility consists of a main lift station, force main, influent screening, screenings washing and compaction, vortex grit removal and grit washing, two primary settling tanks, three fine pore ceramic diffuser aeration tanks, three secondary clarifiers, cloth media tertiary filtration, chlorination tanks, dissolved air flotation thickening of waste activated sludge, four aerobic digesters, centrifuge dewatering, and outfall pipeline. There are no known bypass points for the wastewater collection/treatment system.

Proposed facility

The proposed facility will consist of a new equalization basin and improvements to the main pump station; replacing influent screening, grit removal and the disinfection system; installation of membrane bioreactor and upgrades to solids treatment and dewatering. The proposed facility will be designed to treat 5.7 million gallons per day average wet weather flow, 10.9 mgd peak hourly wet weather flow, 9,900 pounds CBOD₅ average per day and 9,800 pounds suspended solids average per day.

Description of Preliminary Variance Request Determination

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) issues this document to notify the public of the Commissioner's preliminary decision regarding the variance requested by the Permittee. The Permittee has applied for 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 Commissioner has made the preliminary determination that the Permittee has satisfied the conditions necessary to grant the variance and as a result, the Commissioner has made the preliminary determination to grant the variance.

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:
Laura Lacquement
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
714 Lake Ave, Ste 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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.