

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** June 26, 2025**Public comment period ends:** July 28, 2025**Current permit issued:** July 12, 2023**Current permit expiration date:** July 12, 2028**Name and address of Permittee:**Minnesota Power  
4913 Main St  
Duluth, MN 55807-4400**Facility name and location:**Minnesota Power - Hibbard Renewable  
Energy Center  
4913 Main St  
Duluth, MN 55807-4400  
St. Louis County  
T049N, R14W, Section 008**MPCA contact person:**Michael Van Der Wal  
Industrial Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Rd  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194  
Phone: 651-757-2755  
Email: michael.vanderwal@state.mn.usFile 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:** NA**Receiving water:** NA

## Description of Minnesota Power – Hibbard Renewable Energy Center

Hibbard Renewable Energy Center is a steam and power generating facility located in Duluth, Minnesota and owned and operated by Minnesota Power. The site contains two steam generating boilers, four steam turbines, coal handling facilities, wood handling facilities, natural gas supply lines, and miscellaneous insignificant activities. The boilers are capable of burning natural gas, coal, or wood and the mixed variations.

The main pollutants of concern are those resulting from combustion, namely particulate matter (PM), PM less than 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>), PM less than 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), and greenhouse gases (GHG or CO<sub>2e</sub>). Particulate emissions are controlled by electrostatic precipitators and multiple cyclones when the boilers are combusting solid fuel.

The draft air permit is an amendment initiated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to modify operating parameters based on recent performance testing and to correct a carbon monoxide limit. The amended permit will continue to limit emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, mercury, and hydrogen chloride.

The permit action is for operation of the facility. The permit action is a major amendment for a mandatory permit reopening under Minn. R. 7007.1600, subp. 1.D; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice. Pursuant to Minn. R. 7007.1600, subp. 3, only the portions of the permit that are being amended are open for public comment or consideration at a meeting or hearing. Comments on other portions of the permit will not be considered by the MPCA when making the decision on whether to issue the permit.

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE) in tons per year is as follows:

Pollutant	PM	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOCs	CO	CO <sub>2e</sub>	Total HAP
Total Facility PTE	146	26.9	20.9	1070	2222	87.8	2326	1090000	223

PM = Particulate Matter  
PM<sub>2.5</sub> = PM, 2.5 microns and smaller  
NO<sub>x</sub> = Nitrogen Oxides  
CO = Carbon Monoxide

PM<sub>10</sub> = PM, 10 microns and smaller  
SO<sub>2</sub> = Sulfur Dioxide  
VOCs = Volatile Organic Compounds  
CO<sub>2e</sub> = Carbon Dioxide Equivalents as defined in Minn. R. 7007.0100  
HAP = Hazardous Air Pollutant

The Permittee is not required to submit a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

The preliminary determination to issue this Air 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:

Michael Van Der Wal  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Rd  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

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.