

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** July 2, 2025  
**Public comment period ends:** September 2, 2025  
**Current permit modified:** December 15, 2023  
**Current permit issued:** June 1, 2020  
**Current permit expiration date:** May 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:**

City of East Gull Lake  
10790 Gull Point Rd  
East Gull Lake, MN 56401-3088

**Facility name and location:**

East Gull Lake Wastewater Treatment  
Facility  
11800 Co Rd 18  
East Gull Lake, MN 56401  
Cass County  
T134N, R29W, Section 32

**MPCA contact person:**

Cameron Berthiaume  
Municipal Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
7678 College Rd, Ste 105  
Baxter, MN 56425  
Phone: 218-316-3900  
Email: [cameron.berthiaume@state.mn.us](mailto:cameron.berthiaume@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:** Crow Wing River

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

## Description of East Gull Lake Wastewater Treatment facility

The East Gull Lake Wastewater Treatment facility (facility) is located at 11800 County Road 18, East Gull Lake, Minnesota 56401, Cass County.

**Existing facility**

The existing facility consists of two separate sites: the North Plant - Gull Point facility (previously Squaw Point) and the South Plant - Pine Beach facility.

The North Plant - Gull Point facility has a continuous discharge from SD 001 to the Gull River. The facility is a Class C.

The facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.0334 million gallons per day (mgd)
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) of 68 pounds per day (lbs/day)
- Total suspended solids (TSS) of 81 lbs/day

The North Plant - Gull Point facility consists of a main lift station, force main, two aerated ponds, sand filter, and ultraviolet disinfection. The ponds are 13 feet deep with a normal operating depth of 10 feet. Each has a surface area of 0.41 acres. One-half of the second pond is not aerated and serves as a quiescent zone for the settling of solids.

The South Plant - Pine Beach facility has a continuous discharge from SD 002 to the Gull River. The facility is a Class B.

The facility is designed to treat:

- An AWW flow of 0.363 mgd
- CBOD<sub>5</sub> of 636 lbs/day
- TSS of 606 lbs/day

The South Plant - Pine Beach facility consists of a main lift station, influent splitter structure, two activated sludge basins, two final clarifiers equipped with chemical addition for phosphorus removal, ultraviolet disinfection, and a Parshall flume. The South Plant - Pine Beach facility also includes an aerated overflow storage basin, with piping to return stored wastewater to the influent splitter box, an aerobic digestion basin, and a sludge storage basin.

#### Proposed facility

Proposed changes to the facility include decommissioning the North Plant - Gull Point facility and conveying all flows to the South Plant - Pine Beach facility. New sanitary sewer force main will be constructed to the South Plant - Pine Beach facility. A new influent magnetic flow meter will be installed at the South Plant - Pine Beach facility. No other changes will be made to the South Plant - Pine Beach facility. The new combined facility will have an antidegradation design flow of 0.396 mgd.

Changes to the facility may result in an increase in pollutant loading to surface waters or other causes of degradation to surface waters. If a change to the facility will result in a net increase in pollutant loading or other causes of degradation that exceed the maximum loading authorized through conditions specified in the existing permit, the changes to the facility are subject to antidegradation requirements found in Minn. R. 7050.0250 to 7050.0335.

This Permit also complies with Minn. R. 7053.0275 regarding anti-backsliding.

Any point source discharger of sewage, industrial, or other wastes for which a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit has been issued by the MPCA that contains effluent limits more stringent than those that would be established by Minn. R. 7053.0215 to 7053.0265 shall continue to meet the effluent limits established by the permit, unless the permittee establishes that less stringent effluent limits are allowable pursuant to federal law, under section 402(o) of the Clean Water Act, United States Code, title 33, section 1342.

## **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:  
Cameron Berthiaume  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
7678 College Rd, Ste 105  
Baxter, MN 56425

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.