

General information

Public comment period begins: January 2, 2026

Public comment period ends: February 2, 2026

Current permit issued: October 28, 2013

Current permit expiration date: September 30, 2018

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:

Farmers Union Industries
590 W Park Rd
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Facility name and location:

Central Bi-Products - Long Prairie
25498 Highway 71 N
Long Prairie, MN 56347
Todd County
T129N, R33W, Section 007

MPCA contact person:

Courtney Sullivan
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave S, Ste 400
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-302-6667
Email: courtney.sullivan@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: Long Prairie River

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

Description of permitted facility

The Central Bi-Products - Long Prairie Processing Plant (facility) is located at T129N, R33W, Section 8, Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota at the address of 25498 Highway 71 North in Long Prairie. The principal activity at this facility is the protein reduction (rendering) of beef, pork, and poultry products processing for the production of a variety of protein end products, as well as feather processing and hide processing (SIC code 2077). The facility processes 600,000,000 lbs of raw material per year.

Central Bi-Products operates a wastewater pre-treatment facility (WWTF) at their site in Long Prairie for the pretreatment of process wastewater prior to reuse within the processing plant or discharged to the City of Long Prairie Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Wastewater from Central Bi-Products is high in organics, nutrients and dissolved solids. The WWTF at Central Bi-Products consists of a dissolved air floatation unit located at the processing plant and a pond system located approximately three quarters of a mile southwest of the plant. The pond system consists of an anaerobic pond, four aerated ponds, three holding ponds, and two stabilization ponds acquired from the City of Long Prairie. Water from one of the holding ponds is recycled back to the plant to supply water for wash down, cooling towers and air scrubbers. Treated effluent from the WWTF is discharged from the final holding pond to the City of Long Prairie WWTP; this permit action does not authorize a surface water discharge. Solids accumulating in the treatment ponds are periodically removed and land applied.

In 2024, a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) activated sludge system was constructed to treat process wastewater prior to entering the aerated ponds. The SBR system discharges three batches of water per day to pond A3 at a rate of about 90,000 gallons per batch.

In 2026, the Permittee intends on adding an additional SBR or Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor treatment component at the facility that would become operational in 2027.

This permit authorizes approximately 2,000 dry tons per year of WWTF solids (industrial by-product, or IBP) to be land applied in accordance with the terms of this permit. The industrial by-product (IBP) consists of sludge that accumulates in the aerated pond system (WS 301). The IBP resides for a period of five years or more in existing holding ponds. Depending on the quality of the IBP at the time of land application, it may need to be immediately incorporated onto agricultural fields or injected, if possible.

IBP will be applied based on agronomic rates for nitrogen. IBP are applied from May to October once every 5-10 years. The IBP is considered pathogen containing with regard to applicable permit requirements.

Stormwater runoff from the processing plant is covered through this permit. Stormwater management is monitored through stations SD 002 and SD 003. Station SD 003 has been added in this permit reissuance to monitor stormwater on the northeast side of the processing plant. Station SD 001 was established in a previous permit issuance to monitor stormwater runoff from the anaerobic pond cover. The Permittee now pumps this stormwater back into the pond system, and SD 001 has been removed from the permit.

One tile line collects seepage from holding pond 1 and is monitored via station GW 001. The Permittee now pumps this seepage back into the pond system, however a discharge may occur in the event of equipment failure.

Groundwater monitoring requirements have been added to the draft permit to monitor groundwater quality around the ponds. The groundwater monitoring network consists of six monitoring wells.

Ten waste stream (WS) stations have been added to the permit to monitor water quality in the ponds.

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:
Courtney Sullivan
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave S, Ste 400
Duluth, MN 55802

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.