

General information

Public comment period begins: April 27, 2026

Public comment period ends: June 26, 2026

Current permit issued: June 1, 2017

Current permit expiration date: May 31, 2022

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:**

City of Richfield
6700 Portland Ave S
Richfield, MN 55423

Taft Lake Flocculation Treatment Facility
1800 63rd St
Richfield, MN 55423
Hennepin County
T28N, R24W, Section 23

MPCA contact person:

Melanie Miland
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7381 Airport View Dr SW
Rochester, MN 55902
Phone: 507-206-2647
Email: melanie.miland@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: Mississippi River - Twin Cities

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

Description of permitted facility

The Taft Lake Flocculation Treatment Facility (facility) is located on property owned by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). This property (comprising the Northern portion of Taft Park) is directly adjacent to the City of Richfield. The City of Richfield has an agreement with MAC to maintain all of Taft Park.

The facility treats lake water withdrawn from Taft Lake to reduce phosphorus nutrient loads within the lake.

The facility pumps water from the lake to a rapid mix chamber where flocculant is added, after which the water flows through a flocculation tank and disc filters before returning the treated water back to the lake. Solids removed by the treatment process are discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

The maximum daily flow for the facility is 0.720 million gallons per day (mgd). The facility operates seasonally between April and October.

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.

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:

Melanie Miland
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7381 Airport View Dr SW
Rochester, MN 55902

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.