

General information

Public comment period begins: May 15, 2026

Public comment period ends: June 15, 2026

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to issue this permit for a term of approximately five years.

Name and address of Permittee:

MN DNR
525 S Lake Ave Ste 415
Duluth, MN 55802-2302

Facility name and location:

Mud Lake Site
598 East Gary St
Duluth, MN 55808
St. Louis County

MPCA contact person:

Jacob Rapp
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd N
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-757-2479
Email: jacob.rapp@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: St. Louis River

Description of project

The project includes dredged accumulated silt and sediments in Mud Lake, a backwater slough of the St. Louis River. The overarching project aims to improve water quality and biodiversity in the bay by increasing water flow to the water body as it goes downstream on the St. Louis River. Deep water areas of the bay are currently overburdened by sediment deposits from previous infrastructure activities in the 19th century and further contamination from previous industrial activities. The average depth of the open water is 2.4 feet and the maximum depth is 10.3 feet.

The project will not exceed 95,300 cubic yards (cu) of dredged material. The bay will be both mechanically and hydraulically dredged. The dredged material will help to create a channel space that at most will be five feet deep and 20 feet wide. The dredge activity will create a 3:1 slope in the channel to ensure material does not drift. The material will be transported via high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline to a dewatering pad location on US Steel property where it will be placed in Geotubes® for dewatering. Approximately 11,200 cubic yards of this material will not be suitable for beneficial reuse and will be disposed as Level 3 material. The remaining material will be beneficially reused at the purview of the contractor, meeting the requirements for reuse described in this permit. Storage of the dewatered dredged material will not exceed one year.

The preliminary determination to issue 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:
Jacob Rapp
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd N
St. Paul, MN 55155

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.