

**General information**

**Public comment period begins:** May 15, 2026

**Public comment period ends:** June 15, 2026

<b>Name and address of Permittee:</b>	<b>Facility name and location:</b>	<b>MPCA contact person:</b>
US Steel Corp 600 Grant St Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2702	US Steel Corp - MinnTac 8771 Park Ridge Dr Mountain Iron, MN 55768-2075 St. Louis County T059N, R18W, Section 021	Derek Nelson Industrial Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Rd N St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2131 Email: <a href="mailto:derek.nelson@state.mn.us">derek.nelson@state.mn.us</a> File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 844-828-0942

A draft permit and supporting information are 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.

**Description of U.S. Steel Corp - MinnTac**

The permit action is for modification and operation of the facility. The permit action is the reissuance of the Part 70 operating permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice. The preliminary determination to reissue this air permit is tentative.

U.S. Steel owns and operates a taconite mine and pellet production plant, known as MinnTac, in Mountain Iron, Minnesota. The pellet plant consists of five pelletizing lines that convert crude ore into taconite pellets to be used at iron and steel mills. Major activities at the facility include open-pit mining, crushing, pelletizing, storage, and loadout.

The primary pollutants from the pellet production plant include products of combustion from the kilns firing the pellets including nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM), particulate matter less than 10 micron in diameter (PM10), particulate matter less than 2.5 micron in diameter (PM2.5), and various hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).

There are also PM, PM10, and PM2.5 emissions from material handling operations at the plant. Mercury and other metallic HAPs are also emitted from the ore when pellets are fired in the rotary kilns. U.S Steel operates controls such as wet scrubbers and cartridge filters (fabric filters) to control emissions from point sources at the pellet plant.

This permit action is Part 70 Reissuance incorporating 4 major amendments, 11 minor amendments, 7 administrative amendments, 4 MPCA-initiated reopenings, 3 notifications of replacement of controls, and 2 notifications of replacement of unit. This permit authorizes the replacement of existing wet controls in the pellet plant with cartridge filters as applied for in the 2013 major amendment application.

Other major amendments incorporated in this permit action include a 2008 major amendment to establish parametric operating limits for control equipment subject to 40 CFR pt. 63, subp. RRRRR, and a 2020 major amendment to replace a wet scrubber with a dry cartridge filter. U.S Steel completed construction of the dry cartridge filter prior to this permit action under a compliance agreement with the MPCA. The minor amendment applications are for various installations of emergency generators and replacement of various ore crushing and handling emissions units. U.S Steel has already completed construction associated with minor amendment applications as allowed under Minn. R. 7007.1450, subp. 7(A).

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE) and Emissions Increase 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
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Total Facility PTE	18,663	9,825	2,990	4,614	8,604	432	2,931	2,385,908	240
Emissions increase from new emissions units	10.83	4.5	1.01	0.003	1.45	0.57	0.97	290	0.009

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.

## 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:

Derek Nelson  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Rd North  
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.