

General information

Public comment period begins: May 19, 2026
Public comment period ends: July 20, 2026
Current permit issued: January 16, 2019
Current permit expiration date: December 31, 2023

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 Atwater
PO Box 59
Atwater, MN 56209-0059

Facility name and location:

Atwater Wastewater Treatment Facility
1100 Kandi-Meeker Rd
Atwater, MN 56209
Kandiyohi County
T119N, R33W, Section 12

MPCA contact person:

Ashley Wahl
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: 507-476-4264
Email: ashley.wahl@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: North Fork Crow River

Receiving water: Judicial Ditch 17 - Class 2Bm, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The existing facility has a controlled discharge from SD 001. The facility is a Class D.

The facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.200 million gallons per day (MGD); and
- five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) strength of 249 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The two primary cells (also referred to as Cell A and Cell B) have a surface area of 10 acres each and are operated in series. The secondary cell (also referred to as Cell C) has a surface area of 7.5 acres and currently acts as a seepage basin. The facility provides a detention time of 130 days at design flow in Cells A and B.

The primary Cells A and B are large enough to provide adequate detention time at current flows for the wastewater prior to transfer to Cell C. The wastewater transferred to the secondary cell has historically met secondary treatment standards; however, the water evaporates and/or seeps through the bottom of the secondary pond cell.

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:
Ashley Wahl
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
504 Fairgrounds Rd, Ste 200
Marshall, MN 56258

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.