

General information

Public comment period begins: May 22, 2026
Public comment period ends: June 22, 2026
Current permit issued: February 10, 2016
Current permit expiration date: January 31, 2026

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:

Farms of Lake Elmo Association
3025 Jonquil Ave N
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Facility name and location:

Farms of Lake Elmo Wastewater
Treatment Facility
3045 Janero Ave N
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
Washington County
T29N, R21W, Section 15

MPCA contact person:

Cameron Berthiaume
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7678 College Rd, Ste 105
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone: 218-316-3900
Email: cameron.berthiaume@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: Lower St. Croix River

Description of Farms of Lake Elmo Wastewater Treatment Facility

The facility discharges from WS 004 to land via drainfield. This is a Class C facility.

The facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.010 million gallons per day (mgd)
- five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) of 18 pounds per day (lbs/day)
- total suspended solids (TSS) of 17 lbs/day
- total nitrogen (TN) of 6.3 lbs/day

The facility is a septic system designed to treat 38 single family homes with 33 homes connected. The facility consists of individual grinder pumps at each home, a two compartment 12,000-gallon septic tank, a four-tank aerated fixed-film septic process, a 5,000-gallon dosing tank, effluent screen, effluent flow meter, and flows by gravity to a six zoned drainfield. The aerated fixed-film septic process consists of the following: BioMicrobics units in series: a 9,000-gallon MicroFAST 9.0 secondary biological treatment unit, a 9,000-gallon NitrifAST 9.0 nitrification unit, a 3,000-gallon ABC-N 3.0 denitrification unit with carbon source addition, and a 1,500-gallon MicroFAST 1.5 polishing unit. Each drainfield zone is 2,520 square feet for a total treatment area of 15,120 square feet and a reserve area with an additional 5,025 square feet. There is a groundwater monitoring network comprised of three wells.

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:
Cameron Berthiaume
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7678 College Rd, Ste 105
Baxter, MN 56425

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.