

General information

Public comment period begins: June 22, 2026

Public comment period ends: July 6, 2026

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to certify the referenced project, with conditions, and has preliminarily determined that the project will satisfy the antidegradation standards in Minn. R. 7050.0265.

Name and address of Applicant:

Rachel Miller
Minnesota Department of
Transportation
3920 Hwy 2 W
Bemidji, MN 56601

Project name and location (county):

State Project 2908-31 Highway 200
Laporte to Highway 371
Hubbard County

MPCA contact person:

Joshua Prososki
Resource Management and Assistance Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
714 Lake St, Ste 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: 218-846-8125
Email: joshua.prososki@state.mn.us

Federal Permitting Agency:

Morgan Papenhouse
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
332 Minnesota St, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101

A draft Section 401 Water Quality Certification with antidegradation determination is available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices> or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft certification 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 time identified above.

Major Watershed: #8 - Leech Lake River

Description of Issuance for 401 Water Quality Certification for State Project 2908-31 Highway 200 Laporte to Highway 371

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is proposing to reconstruct and add ancillary facilities to an 8.2-mile section of Trunk Highway 200 (TH-200) from approximately Laporte to Trunk Highway 371 (TH-371). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has jurisdiction for 5.7 miles of the project from Laporte to approximately 0.25 miles southeast of the intersection of TH-200 with County Road 38 (CR-38). The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has jurisdiction for 2.5 miles of the project from approximately 0.25 miles southeast of the intersection of TH-200 and CR-38 to the intersection of TH-200 with TH-371.

Pavement on TH-200 is in poor condition, with 30 culverts needing replacement. The applicant is proposing to reconstruct TH-200, replace 30 culverts, widen shoulders, and install curb and gutter, sidewalks, and pedestrian paths in Laporte and Benedict. A 3' by 58' arch pipe culvert that conveys an unnamed stream under TH-200 will be replaced with an 8' by 4' by 80' concrete box culvert. The goal of the project is to improve safety along the roadway and improve drainage in the project area.

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 certification and antidegradation determination.
- (2) Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
- (3) Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Submitting written comments

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or online you must state:

- (1) Your interest in the request for 401 water quality certification or the draft 401 water quality certification.
- (2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft 401 water quality certification 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.