

**Request for comments on draft Minnesota Decision
Document for the Hibbing Gas Manufacturing Site***Doc Type: Public Notice***General information****Public comment period begins:** June 9, 2026**Public comment period ends:** 11:59 p.m. on July 9, 2026**Site Name and location:**Hibbing Gas Manufacturing Plant Site
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A draft Minnesota Decision Document (MDD) for the Hibbing Gas Manufacturing Site is available for review on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Public Notices webpage at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/get-engaged/public-comments>. Additional materials relating to this document are available for inspection by appointment at any MPCA office (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-offices>) 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 MDD upon request. Comments and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and time identified above.

Description of the Hibbing Gas Manufacturing Site

The former Site facilities were operated by the Hibbing Public Utilities Commission (HPUC), a municipal utility established and operating under Minn. Stat. ch. 412 and certain Minnesota Laws. The former facilities were operated as a coal gasification plant from 1918 to 1923, as a carbureted water gas plant from 1923 to 1946, and as a propane gas plant from 1946 to 1969. The onsite buildings and other above-ground infrastructure were demolished in approximately 1980, although many of the foundations remain. The area of the Site where the coal gas manufacturing occurred (Manufacturing Area) is approximately 4.5 acres in size and is presently used as an equipment and supply storage yard by HPUC.

Coal tar and other process wastes from the gas plant were discharged to an adjacent 10-acre wetland (Wetland Discharge Area). Historic aerial photos show the wetland was filled after closure of the gas plant. Coal tar, coal ash, boiler slag, and impacted soil are present below the fill layer in an approximately 3-acre area of the Wetland Discharge Area. Data from soil borings conducted in this area indicate the fill cover overlying impacted soils is approximately 1.5 to 7 feet thick and is serving as a protective cover.

MPCA Decision

The MPCA has selected Remedial Alternative 3A/3B (Excavation and Disposal of Coal Tar Impacted Soil) for the Manufacturing Area, and Remedial Alternative 4 (Institutional and Engineering Controls) for the Wetland Discharge Area. The selected response actions meet the site response action objectives and are protective of human health and the environment.

Institutional and Engineering controls will be implemented in the Wetland Discharge Area to restrict access. An environmental covenant will be filed at the St. Louis County Recorder's Office to restrict parcels to commercial or industrial use, restrict soil disturbance, prohibit groundwater extraction, and require an annual inspection to verify the proposed restrictions remain effective at limiting site access and exposure.

Excavation with off-site disposal in the Manufacturing Area will remove free-phase coal tar, contaminated soil above risk criteria, and below ground infrastructure. The Manufacturing Area is the primary source of coal tar impacted soil at the Site. Contaminated soil will be removed to depths up to 20 feet below ground surface within and near the gas holder foundation, tar separator, and tar and ammonia wells. Where possible, below ground piping in the Manufacturing Area will be excavated and removed from the Site. Clean soil will be imported to backfill the excavated area and restore the Site to pre-construction elevations.

Submitting Comments

Comments may be submitted to the MPCA by the two methods below:

1. Online at www.pca.state.mn.us/publiccomments
2. U.S. Mail to the address listed above.