

Central Region Headquarters
1200 Warner Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106

July 14, 2026

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

Re: Comments on Draft Permit MN0050636, Cimarron Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dear Cameron Berthiaume,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued several permits authorizing temporary pumping of Rose Lake during periods when high water levels posed a risk to the Cimarron Park Wastewater Treatment Facility. These permits were issued solely to prevent emergency conditions at Cimarron Park.

The DNR shares the Valley Branch Watershed District's (VBWD) concerns regarding downstream water quality impacts associated with emergency pumping from Rose Lake. During these high water events, pumped water from Rose Lake is discharged toward Horseshoe Lake and ultimately the St. Croix River, an Outstanding Resource Value Water per Minn. Rule 7050.0335.

The current situation for wastewater treatment at Cimarron Park is unsustainable given that repeated and continuing high water events are causing downstream water quality impacts. The DNR agrees with VBWD that a transition to a municipal sewer system is necessary.

Sincerely,



Dan Scollan
East Metro Area Hydrologist

cc: Joe Richter, Water Appropriations Hydrologist, Minnesota DNR
Ceil Strauss, State Floodplain (NFIP) Manager, Minnesota DNR
John (Jack) Gleason, South District Hydrologist Supervisor, Minnesota DNR
Megan Moore, District Manager – Ecological and Water Resources, Minnesota DNR
John Hanson, District Engineer, Valley Branch Watershed District