

General information

Public comment period begins: June 26, 2026

Public comment period ends: July 27, 2026

Current permit issued: May 4, 2006

Current permit expiration date: May 4, 2011

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:

Andersen Corporation
100 4th Ave N
Bayport, MN 55003-1058

Facility name and location:

Andersen Corporation
100 4th Ave N
Bayport, MN 55003-1058
Washington County
T29N, R20W, Section 3

MPCA contact person:

Sarah Starr
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2335
Email: sarah.starr@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

Receiving water: St Croix River - Class 1C, 2Bdg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The primary activity at the facility is the manufacturing of clad wood windows and patio doors. Manufacturing and related processes include wood cutting and milling, wood preservative application, painting, vinyl processing, adhesive operations, by-product transfer, wood and natural gas-fired boilers, assembly operations, technology development, production support, and maintenance functions.

The discharges at the facility consist primarily of cooling waters which are used for non-contact cooling processes, reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate, and stormwater runoff from the plant site. Water discharges to the St. Croix River (1C, 2Bdg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6), which is a federally designated "Wild and Scenic River" as well as an Outstanding Resource Value Water (ORVW). Water used in non-contact cooling systems (SD 001, SD 005, and SD 006) is supplied by groundwater pumped from plant wells at the facility. Flow meters track water use at all stations and these measurements are used to report effluent flow at each station. No chemical additives are used in the non-contact cooling water (NCCW) systems.

SD 001 and SD 006 (when active) consist of NCCW from air compressor systems. SD 001 is discharged at a maximum rate of 0.72 million gallons per day (mgd) via a storm sewer, while SD 006 (when active) is discharged at a maximum rate of 0.122 mgd through a separate discharge pipe.

SD 005 is comprised of NCCW from the solvent recovery system. This stream discharges via a discharge pipe at a maximum rate of 0.576 mgd.

The Permittee operates a groundwater treatment system for remediation of contaminated groundwater under the plant, which contains trace concentrations of pentachlorophenol (PCP). PCP was an ingredient used as a wood treatment preservative at the facility until 1986. The groundwater treatment system includes a pump and treat system, which extracts contaminated groundwater and treats it through a granular activated carbon system. Treated groundwater is either discharged to the St. Croix River at SD 002 at a maximum rate of 0.432 mgd or is routed to be used as NCCW in the solvent recovery system and discharged through SD 005.

The groundwater treatment system was originally implemented in 1982. Over time, monitoring requirements have been removed as contaminant levels have been decreased to below the agreed concentrations as outlined in the 1995 Minnesota Decision Document (MDD) for the site. With this permit reissuance, PCP monitoring has been removed, but the remediation system and discharge stations are being kept in the permit while the site is further investigated.

SD 002 and SD 006 are currently inactive, however the Permittee would like to retain discharge authorization (preservation of antidegradation flows and wasteload allocations) for the outfalls should the future need for them arise.

The facility has a RO system to treat groundwater for use as plant make-up water. Incoming groundwater is treated with sodium hypochlorite prior to treatment in the RO system. RO concentrate is discharged at SD 008 to the St. Croix River via the Permittee's private storm sewer at a maximum rate of 0.01 mgd. This waste stream was previously thought to discharge through SD 006; however, investigation found that this stream discharges separately, and therefore a new station has been added to monitor this stream. The NCCW previously discharged via SD 006 is currently discharged via SD 008. Therefore, the permitted maximum rate of discharge for SD 006 and SD 008 combined is 0.123 mgd.

With the exception of RO reject water, all process and sanitary wastewaters are discharged to the Metropolitan Council Saint Croix Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant through a sanitary sewer system. Stormwater is covered under the Multi-Sector Industrial Stormwater permit (MNR0539XM).

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:

Sarah Starr
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

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.