

General information

Public comment period begins: July 15, 2026

Public comment period ends: August 14, 2026

Name and address of Permittee:

POET Biorefining - Preston
PO Box 440
Preston, MN 55965-0440

Facility name and location:

POET Biorefining - Preston
701 Industrial Dr N
Preston, MN 55965-9017
Fillmore County
T103N, R11W, Section 036

MPCA contact person:

Tarik Hanafy
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2404
Email: tarik.hanafy@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.

Description of POET Biorefining - Preston

POET Biorefining - Preston, LLC (POET) operates a bioethanol production plant (facility) in Preston, Minnesota. POET primarily uses corn feedstock to produce fuel ethanol and byproducts. The facility is permitted to produce up to 80 million gallons of undenatured ethanol, process 4.0 million gallons of denaturant, receive 814,600 tons of grain, and loadout 221,920 tons of dry distiller's grain with solubles (DDGS) or modified distiller's grains with solubles (MDGS) per year. Operations at the facility include grain receiving, milling, fermentation, distillation, dehydration to remove residual water, denaturing (adding gasoline or a similar denaturant), storage and loadout to trucks. Byproducts, DDGS, MDGS, wetcake, corn oil, and Liquid CO₂ are also produced, stored onsite, and shipped out by truck.

POET is required to have a Part 70 permit and has taken limits to avoid Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permitting thresholds. Pollutants emitted include particulate matter (PM), particulate matter smaller than 10 microns (PM₁₀), particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}), volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), hazardous air pollutants (HAP), and greenhouse gases (GHG, primarily carbon dioxide). Sources of emissions from the facility include: grain receiving and handling, milling, fermentation, distillation, DDGS & wetcake production, storage and handling, natural gas combustion, product and denaturant storage and loadout, leaks from piping connections, cooling towers, and truck traffic.

A regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) controls VOC and HAP emissions from fermentation process, DDGS drying and other processes. Wet scrubbers control VOC and HAP emissions from the fermentation process and the distillation processes. Baghouses control PM, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} emissions from grain and DDGS handling and processing sources. A flare controls VOC and HAP emissions from the ethanol loadout process. The large product storage tanks are equipped with internal floating roofs to control VOCs. Emissions from equipment leaks are controlled through an inspection and maintenance program.

This permit action also includes a reopening to reset water flow and additive flow application rates for the fermentation scrubber under operating scenario 2. There is also a major amendment to incorporate SO₂ limits to comply with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE) in tons per year is as follows:

Pollutant	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO _x	VOC	CO	CO _{2e}	Single HAP	Total HAP
Total Facility PTE	107.6	91.6	85.6	226.2	93.5	156.8	109.5	392,900	5.94	16.9

PM = Particulate Matter

PM_{2.5} = PM, 2.5 microns and smaller

NO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

CO = Carbon Monoxide

PM₁₀ = PM, 10 microns and smaller

SO₂ = Sulfur Dioxide

VOC = Volatile Organic Compounds

CO_{2e} = Carbon Dioxide Equivalents as defined in

Minn. R. 7007.0100

HAP = Hazardous Air Pollutant

The Permittee is not required to submit a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Air 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:
Tarik Hanafy
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, MN 55155

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.