

General information

Public comment period begins: July 20, 2026
Public comment period ends: September 18, 2026

Current permit issued: June 1, 2020
Current permit modified: March 22, 2023
Current permit expiration date: May 31, 2025

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:

City of Northfield
1450 Hwy 3 N
Northfield, MN 55057-1494

Facility name and location:

Northfield Wastewater Treatment Facility
1450 Hwy 3 N
Northfield, MN 55057-1494
Dakota County
T112N, R19W, Section 30

MPCA contact person:

Holly Sandberg
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
714 Lake Ave, Ste 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Phone: 218-846-8111
Email: holly.sandberg@state.mn.us

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
844-828-0942

A draft permit and fact sheet are 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: Cannon River

Receiving water: Cannon River - Class 2Bg, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge from SD 006. This is a Class A. facility.

The facility is designed to treat:

- an average wet-weather (AWW) flow of 5.2 million gallons per day (mgd)
- five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) of 7,440 pounds per day (lbs/day)
- total suspended solids (TSS) of 9,333 lbs/day
- total phosphorus (TP) of 780 lbs/day
- ammonia nitrogen of 1,120 lbs/day

The facility treatment process consists of a raw wastewater pumping station, flow metering, fine screens, vortex grit removal, six rapid-mix tanks, chemical addition of ferric chloride and polymer for phosphorus removal, two flocculation tanks, two lamella plate clarifiers, ten upflow biological aerated filters, a filter backwash tank, and ultraviolet light disinfection. There are two rotating biological contactors (RBC) and secondary clarifiers that are still present but are not in use. Additionally, the biosolids treatment system consists of two raw biosolids storage tanks, two screw presses, and lime/heat pasteurization using the Schwing Bioset® process to produce exceptional quality biosolids. The biosolids are stored onsite until they are land applied.

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:
Holly Sandberg
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
714 Lake Ave, Ste 220
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

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.