

General information

Public comment period begins: July 24, 2026**Public comment period ends:** August 24, 2026**Name and address of Permittee:**Hormel Food Corporation – Austin
Plant
PO Box 369, Austin MN
QPP; Quality Pork Processors
PO Box 369
Austin, MN 55912-0369**Facility name and location:**Hormel Foods Corporation - Austin
Plant
500 14th Ave NE
Austin, MN 55912-3600
Mower County**MPCA contact person:**Joy Wiecks
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave. S., Suite 400
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-302-6672
Email: joy.wiecks@state.mn.usFile manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
844-828-0942

A draft permit and supporting documentation 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.

Description of Hormel Foods Corporation

Hormel Foods Corporation operates a meat processing plant in Austin, Minnesota. At the facility, Quality Pork Processors (QPP) processes hogs and Hormel manufactures the hogs into ham, bacon, dry sausage, fresh sausage, SPAM, and other meat products. Refined products operations produce salable byproducts including blood meal, cracklings, and bone meal. QPP is a co-Permittee with Hormel. However, Hormel Foods owns all equipment and operates the majority of it; QPP only operates a number of natural gas-fired indirect heating units in the hog processing area.

A majority of the air emissions produced at the facility come from the refined products operations, which includes rendering cookers, a blood dryer, bone dryer, and hair hydrolyzer. These units primarily emit particulate matter (PM), particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀), and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}). Emissions from these units are vented in series through two separate packed-gas adsorption columns, a single Venturi scrubber, and a regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO). Other sources of emissions at the facility include natural smoke generators that provide smoke to the natural gas-fired smoking ovens controlled by exhaust washers, precooked bacon production lines, and various natural gas combustion equipment including seven boilers that produce process steam.

The permit action is for operation of the facility. The permit action is the reissuance of the Part 70 operating permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice

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	VOCs	CO	CO _{2e}	Total HAP
Total Facility PTE	122	189	189	1.14	177	72.0	185	211,798	4.37

PM = Particulate Matter

PM_{2.5} = PM, 2.5 microns and smallerNO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

CO = Carbon Monoxide

PM₁₀ = PM, 10 microns and smallerSO₂ = Sulfur Dioxide

VOCs = 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.

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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:
Joy Wiecks
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave S., Suite 400
Duluth, MN 55802

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.