

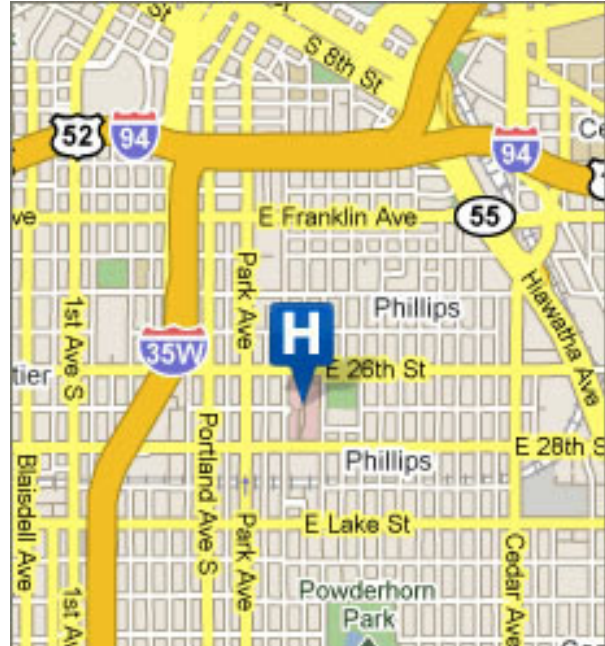


## Introduction

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is starting review of an air emissions permit application for Abbott Northwestern Hospital (Abbott). Abbott is located in the area described by Minn. Stat. 116.07, subd. 4a (Statute), which requires a cumulative levels and effects analysis.

## What Is a Cumulative Levels and Effects Analysis?

The cumulative levels and effects (CL&E) analysis is a unique requirement in the country. A method for conducting the CL&E analysis was developed by the MPCA with input from other agencies, the University of Minnesota, and local community members. A CL&E analysis starts with air modeling based on the highest possible air pollutant emissions from a proposed project. Therefore, the results of air modeling show the worst possible air concentrations that could occur. All pollutants with air concentrations above screening levels are identified for a more thorough review. This review includes quantitative and qualitative evaluation of human and environmental health data. A journal article published on this method is available online at <http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/8/11/4140>.



## What types of environmental health data are included in a CL&E analysis?

The types of human and environmental health data used in a CL&E analysis depend on the pollutants screened in for further review and may include traffic densities, air quality indices, measured ambient air data, modeled ambient air data, asthma related hospitalizations, cardiovascular hospitalizations, socioeconomic data, tobacco use rates, biomonitoring data, water data, other nearby sources of pollution, and other data.

## Why does Abbott need an air permit?

Abbott already has an air permit, but needs to amend the permit to do the following:

1. Change the backup fuel for several boilers from Fuel Oil #6 (residual oil), to Fuel Oil #2 (diesel).
2. Add natural gas heating equipment and an emergency generator for the lab area.

## Generally, how does the MPCA review an air permit application?

The MPCA reviews air permit applications with respect to the accuracy of project information and all applicable state and federal rules and guidance. If there are errors or insufficient information in an application, the company provides more information until the MPCA is satisfied that the application is correct and all state and federal requirements will be met. The MPCA does not have authority over locations of proposed projects. Zoning decisions are generally under the authority of local governments.

### **How is the MPCA's review of the Abbott air permit application different?**

In addition to the standard review process for air permit applications, MPCA staff will review the Abbott application with respect to the cumulative levels and effects requirements, including air modeling and risk assessment. MPCA also follows an expanded community outreach plan for projects located in the area described by the Statute.

### **How can I participate in the Abbott air permit process?**

The expanded community outreach plan offers many ways to participate.

- Sign up for email and/or text updates at [www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh484](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh484)
- Attend the information session (May 31, 2012, see webpage for details)
- Review application materials (online, at Franklin Library or at MPCA offices)
- Ask questions of MPCA technical staff
- Provide comments/suggestions to MPCA technical staff during application review
- Make formal comments on a draft permit during the public comment period
- Attend a public meeting (date determined later)

### **How do I get more information?**

The air permit application, including the air modeling results, risk assessment, and cumulative levels and effects analysis, are available at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh484>. You can view hard copies at the Franklin Library reference desk and at the MPCA offices located at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul.

### **Comments or questions:**

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