



# Hennepin Energy Resource Company (HERC)

## Proposed permit amendment

This fact sheet describes a proposed permit amendment sought by the Hennepin Energy Resource Company to modify the air emissions permit for its downtown Minneapolis facility, located at 505 Sixth Avenue North.

### Current Facility

- Municipal solid waste (MSW) energy recovery facility in Minneapolis.
- Combusts MSW to reduce the volume of MSW going to landfills. Plant is designed to handle up to 442,380 tons/year but current air emissions permit limits throughput to 365,000 tons/year (average of 1,000 tons/day).
- Produces heat which is used to make electricity and steam for sale.
- Facility is owned by Hennepin County and operated by Covanta Energy Company.
- Facility has been operating since 1989.

### Proposed Project

- Increase HERC's permitted MSW processing rate to full plant capacity (from average 1,000 to 1,212 tons/day, ~ 21% increase).
- No physical modification to plant is needed to implement project.

### Environmental Review

- Project is required to go through Environmental Review (Environmental Assessment Worksheet, or EAW, required for any MSW energy recovery facility expanding >30 tons/day).
- EAW assesses project effects including air emissions, solid waste, water quality, traffic, and noise.
- MPCA is currently collecting information from HERC in order to write the EAW and the draft air permit.
- EAW and air permit will be published for public review/comment (timeline to be determined).
- MPCA will hold a public meeting for EAW and air permit during public comment period.

### Permitting

- Project requires an air emissions permit amendment from MPCA.
- Project also requires a conditional use permit (CUP) from city of Minneapolis.
- No permits can be issued until the Environmental Review process is complete.

### Project will:

- Result in additional electricity and steam production.
- Further reduce amount of MSW sent to landfills.

- Result in more MSW recycled.
- Increase air emissions. Maximum hourly limits will not increase but annual emissions would go up due to increased throughput. Revised permit would have lower limits on NOx, mercury and dioxins/furans than called for in federal standards.
- Result in increased MSW combustion ash.
- Result in up to 16 additional trucks/day going to the HERC facility.
- Result in fewer MSW truck miles driven overall in the Hennepin County because fewer and larger trucks will be used for the same amount of MSW generated.

*For more information*

- Contact Ralph Pribble, MPCA Public Information Office, 651-757-2657 or [ralph.pribble@state.mn.us](mailto:ralph.pribble@state.mn.us).
- Visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hqzq13d8>, where you may also sign up for email alerts regarding this project