

RE: Public Notice for the Proposed Issuance of New General NPDES/SDS Permit

Dear Interested Parties:

Enclosed is a copy of the Notice that will be published in the State Register on July 13, 2009, for the proposed issuance by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) of a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permit. A copy of the Public Notice and Fact Sheet for this permit has been enclosed. A paper copy of the draft 2011 General NPDES/SDS Permit may be obtained by:

- Download from the MPCA Feedlot site at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html>
- Calling the MPCA at: 651-757-2096 or toll free at 800-657-3864, (for users of Telecommunications Devices for the Hearing Impaired, call 651-282-5332); or
- Submitting a written request or electronic message to the contact address provided in Part XIII, of the fact sheet.

Approximately 1,200 livestock and poultry operations will be affected by issuance of this permit. The operations that are affected are those that meet the definition of a Large Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), as defined by the revised U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, adopted November 20, 2008, and operations that are capable of holding 1,000 or more animal units as defined by Minn. R. ch. 7020 and Minn. Stat. 116.06.

The proposed general NPDES/SDS permit contains revisions to the existing General Permit issued on May 31, 2006. The changes largely affect the requirements for land application of manure, recordkeeping and annual reporting practices. A summary of the proposed changes can be found in Part IX. of the enclosed Fact Sheet.

We are seeking your comments on the proposed permit. The Notice and Fact Sheet each indicate how you can participate in the MPCA's consideration of the proposed permit and also provide contact information if you have any questions. **Written comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on August 12, 2009, by the MPCA.**

Please note that the proposed Air and Water Permit Fee Rules are now on public notice. The fee rule is a completely separate process from the feedlot general permit; yet, it affects all who hold or will hold feedlot NPDES permits. The proposed rules, public notice, and rule statement of need and reasonableness (SONAR) are available on the MPCA Web page at www.pca.state.mn.us/permits/airwaterfees.html

Information on how to submit comments on the proposed rules is contained in the public notice. Those without internet access may request a hard copy of the proposed rules, public notice, or SONAR by calling 651-757-2090. The public hearing for the proposed fee rules is set for July 28, 2009.

Please read the Notice and Fact Sheet carefully and submit any comments regarding the draft general NPDES/SDS permit to Kim Brynildson at the address listed below as well as in the public notice and fact sheet documents.

We welcome your comments and look forward to working with you as we finalize the permit. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Enclosures