

Water Quality Application Fee Guidance

The 2007/2008 and 2009 Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to conduct rulemaking to amend Minn. R. ch. 7002, Air Emission and Water Quality Permit Fees. Per 2009 Legislation, new application fee rates are effective for all applications received starting July 1, 2009. Permit applications processed by the MPCA after July 1, 2009, will be charged retroactive fees, as necessary.

There are two types of permit application fees: Application fees and additional point fees based on additional work required to issue or reissue the permit.

Application fees

Application fees correlate to the level of effort required by the MPCA to process the different types of permit applications and develop a permit that complies with applicable regulations and establish processes for determining that a facility is being operated in full compliance with all applicable requirements. The fees cover the cost of regulatory activities of the MPCA associated with the permit and are not limited to the cost of preparing the permit. The permit application fees are based on an assessment of the level of MPCA effort required for each type of application or activity as determined by staff responsible for these activities.

The appropriate permit application fee must be submitted with the application. Permit applications missing the correct application fee or with the incorrect permit application fee will be returned.

The application fee is determined by the application type. Refer to the table below to determine the applicable permit fee.

Application type	Points	Application fee (\$310/point)
Individual Permit Reissuance, No Modifications Application for reissuance of an existing permit with no modifications to the permit requested.	4	\$1,240
Individual Permit Reissuance, Modifications Application for reissuance of an existing permit with modifications to the permit requested. Modifications include the addition of chemical treatment, addition of a storage facility, replacement or rehab of existing treatment components.	8	\$2,480
Individual Permit Reissuance, Construction, No Increased Design Flow Application for reissuance of an existing permit with construction and no increase in design flow. Construction includes constructing new treatment components, or upgrading or expanding the facility.	8	\$2,480
Individual Permit Reissuance, Construction, Increased Design Flow Application for reissuance of an existing permit with construction and an increased average wet weather design flow for municipal or private domestic facilities or increased maximum daily flow for industrial facilities.	30	\$9,300
Individual Wastewater Permit Issuance Application for an individual permit for a private or municipal treatment system that does not have an existing state-issued permit. This would apply to new industrial treatment and municipal wastewater treatment facilities and existing unpermitted facilities where a permit is required by Minnesota Rules and Statutes.	30	\$9,300
Individual Permit Minor Modification Requested by Permittee Application for a minor modification to an existing permit mid permit cycle per Minn. R. 7001.0190, subp. 3. Minor modifications include correcting errors, more frequent monitoring, change in a voluntary construction schedule or removal of a monitoring station that has been terminated.	4	\$1,240

Application type	Points	Application fee (\$310/point)
Individual Permit Major Modification Application for a major modification to an existing permit mid permit cycle for reasons not covered under Minn. R. 7001.0190, subp. 3. Major modifications include change in a compliance schedule or alterations to existing treatment components.	8	\$2,480
Individual Permit Major Modification, Construction, No Increased Design Flow Application for a major modification to an existing permit mid permit cycle for reasons not covered under Minn. R. 7001.0190, subp. 3 and include construction but no increase in design flow. Major modifications include a change to a compliance schedule, construction of new treatment components, or upgrading or expanding the facility.	8	\$2,480
Individual Permit Major Modification, Construction, Increased Design Flow Application for a major modification to an existing permit mid permit cycle that includes construction and an increased average wet weather design flow for municipal or private domestic facilities or increased maximum daily flow for industrial facilities.	30	\$9,300
General Permit Issuance and Reissuance Application requesting coverage under one of the MPCA's general permits.	4	\$1,240
General Permit Modification Application requesting changes in a Notice of Coverage issued under one of the general permits. A general permit modification includes a change in the type of chemical addition in a Notice of Coverage.	4	\$1,240
Individual Pretreatment Permit Issuance Application for a new individual pretreatment permit. A pretreatment permit is required if a facility generates industrial process wastewater that comes from industrial processes covered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency categories listed in 40 CFR pt. 413 - 471 and if this wastewater is routed to the sanitary sewer system. Metal finishing facilities can apply for a general permit issuance.	8	\$2,480
Individual Dredge Material Disposal Permit Issuance Application for a new individual permit to apply material dredged from surface waters to land.	8	\$2,480
Individual Biosolids Treatment or Storage Permit Issuance Application for a new individual permit for a biosolids treatment or storage facility.	30	\$9,300
Transfer/Name Change Application requesting a transfer of ownership, name change of permittee, or name change of permitted facility.	0	\$0
Request for Permit Termination Application requesting a permit termination because the discharge ended, was routed to a sanitary sewer, the facility closed, or a permit is no longer required per Minnesota Rules and Statutes.	0	\$0
Sanitary Sewer Extension Permits		
a. Flow increase of 0 to 0.10 million gallons per day	1	\$310
b. Flow increase of 0.10 to 1.0 million gallons per day	2	\$620
c. Flow increase greater than 1.0 million gallons per day	3	\$930

Additional points fee

Minn. R. 7002.0253 requires billing for additional work required to issue or reissue permits based on a specific activity (example flow increase, Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW), Antidegradation, etc). Additional fees for specific permit actions reflect the additional work effort needed to accomplish specific reviews. The additional fees are associated with permit development activities that increase the demands on MPCA resources. The fees for these additional activities, like the application fees, are based on the MPCA's determination of the actual level of effort involved in performing the identified activity or activity review. The Additional Point Fees should not be submitted with the permit application.

Permittees will receive an invoice from the MPCA when the permit is placed on public notice. The additional application fees must be paid before the permit will be issued, reissued, or modified.

Additional point activity	Points	Fee (\$310/point)
Individual Permit New or Increased Maximum Daily or Average Wet Weather Design Flow (not applicable to non-contact cooling water discharges and not due to mine pit or quarry de-watering or sewer extensions):		
a. increase from 0.0 to 0.20 mgd	0	\$0
b. increase from 0.20 to less than 1.0 mgd	5	\$1,550
c. increase from 1.0 to less than 5.0 mgd	10	\$3,100
d. increase from 5.0 to less than 20.0 mgd	20	\$6,200
e. increase from 20.0 to less than 50.0 mgd	30	\$9,300
f. increase from 50.0 mgd or more	40	\$12,400
Individual Permit with Noncontact Cooling Water Discharge New or Increased Flow		
a. noncontact Cooling Water Flow increase less than 50 mgd	5	\$1,550
b. noncontact Cooling Water Flow increase equal to or greater than 50 mgd	20	\$6,200
Antidegradation Review required under Minn. R. 7050.0180, 7050.0185, 7050.0186 or 7052.0300 to 7052.0330.	20	\$6,200
Variance Request under Minn. R. 7000.7000 or 7020.1900	35	\$10,850
Confidentiality Request under Minn. R. 7000.1300 (applicable any time request is made)	2	\$620
Mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) under Minn. R. 4410.4300 where MPCA is the responsible government unit. (If applicable to both AQ and WQ, check with AQ to verify cost. Permittee to pay lower of the two fees.)		
a. complete EAW under Minn. R. 4410.4300, subp. 18 item A or 29	15	\$4,650
b. complete EAW under Minn. R. 4410.4300, subp. 8 item A or B, 10 items A to C, 16 item A or D; 17 items A to C or E to G; or 18 item B or C	35	\$10,850
c. complete EAW under Minn. R. 4410.4300 subp 4; 5 item A or B; 13; 15; 16 item B or C; or 17 item D	70	\$21,700

Examples

1. What is the permit application fee for a general permit reissuance of an existing non-contact cooling water discharge with no changes to the facility? Are there any additional fees?

The application type is General Permit Reissuance which is assigned four points for a permit application fee of \$1,240.

This permit does not include any additional work; therefore, no additional point's fee will be billed to the permittee.

2. What is the permit application fee for a modification to an existing permit for a municipal wastewater treatment facility that is proposing an upgrade with an average wet weather flow increase of 0.50 million gallons per day (mgd). Are there any additional fees?

The application type is Individual Permit Major Modification, Construction, Increased Design Flow which is assigned 30 points for an application fee of \$9,300.

The permittee is subject to additional point fees for the increase in design flow. An increase in design flow from 0.20 mgd to 1.0 mgd is assigned five points for a fee of \$1,550. The permittee may also be required to pay for additional fees if they request a variance or if an EAW or Antidegradation Review is required, etc.

3. What is the permit application fee for a new sand and gravel permit that qualifies for coverage under the sand and gravel general permit MNG49? Are there any additional fees?

The application type is a General Permit Issuance which is assigned four points for an application fee of \$1240.

Sand and gravel facilities that are eligible for coverage under MNG49 will not be subject to additional point fees because there is no increase in flow, confidentiality requests, EAW, etc.

4. What is the permit application fee for a reissuance of an existing municipal wastewater treatment facility permit that is proposing the addition of chemical treatment for phosphorus? Are there any additional fees?

The application type is Individual Permit Reissuance, Modifications which is assigned eight points for a permit application fee of \$2,480.

There will be no additional points because the addition of chemical treatment does not result in additional work, such as a flow increase, EAW, variance request, etc.