

February 2013

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Watershed Division

Public Notice of Availability of the Draft Lake Hiawatha Site-Specific Standard and Request for Comment

Public Comment Period Begins: February 4, 2013

Public Comment Period Ends: March 6, 2013

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is requesting comments on a proposed site-specific water quality standard for Lake Hiawatha in Hennepin County. Information pertaining to the site-specific standard is available for review at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/84rqh8k>. Written comments on the proposed site-specific standard must be sent to the MPCA contact person listed below by 4:30 P.M., on **March 6, 2013**.

Procedural Background

MPCA staff is in the process of completing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Lake Hiawatha. As part of the TMDL development process, MPCA staff developed a draft site-specific eutrophication standard for the lake. Before the TMDL can be finalized, the site-specific standard for the lake must be public noticed and approved by the MPCA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Lake Hiawatha Background

Lake Hiawatha (Lake ID 27-0018-00) is located in the lower end of the Minnehaha Creek watershed within Minneapolis. Sixty-two percent of the lake is less than 15 feet deep and it has a maximum depth of 33 feet. The lake is 55 acres and receives drainage via Minnehaha Creek from a very large area—over 170 square miles. This means that the water in the lake has a relatively short residence time before outflowing back into Minnehaha Creek. This is actually advantageous in terms of water quality because a short residence time limits the amount of algae that can grow. This means that it takes a greater concentration of phosphorus to produce a given amount of algae, as compared to more typical residence time conditions.

Site-Specific Standard Background

Minnesota Rule Chapter 7050 provides water quality standards for waterbodies as well as the legal basis for consideration and adoption of site-specific water quality standards (<https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/rules/?id=7050.0222>). Per this rule lakes are assigned eutrophication standards for three parameters: total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a (the main pigment in algae) and Secchi disk depth (a measure of water clarity). The MPCA proposes changing only the total phosphorus portion of the eutrophication standard for Lake Hiawatha, specifically from 40 micrograms per liter to 50 micrograms per liter (June through September average). The rationale for this proposal is that monitoring data indicate a total phosphorus level of 50 micrograms per liter will result in the lake's meeting the existing standards for the response variables, chlorophyll-a and Secchi disk depth, and thereby producing minimal nuisance algal

blooms and exhibiting desirable water clarity, meaning that the lake will achieve its designated beneficial uses.

For further detail and explanation regarding this proposal, see the supporting technical document entitled “Lake Hiawatha Site-Specific Eutrophication Criteria Justification” at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/84rqh8k>

This document is also available at the MPCA office at the address listed below.

Preliminary Determination on the draft Site-Specific Standard:

The MPCA Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to submit this site-specific standard to the EPA for final approval. Comments to the proposed site-specific eutrophication standard will be considered before is sent to the EPA for approval.

Written Comments: You may submit written comments on the proposed site-specific eutrophication standard for Lake Hiawatha or on the Commissioner’s preliminary determination. Written comments must include the following:

1. A statement of your interest in the proposed site-specific standard;
2. A statement of the action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the proposed site-specific standard that you believe should be changed; and
3. The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the Commissioner to investigate the merits of your position.

In addition to submitting comments, a request may be made for a public informational meeting.

Request for Public Informational Meeting: A public informational meeting is an informal meeting that the MPCA may hold to solicit public comment and statements on matters before the MPCA, and to help clarify and resolve issues.

A request for a public informational meeting must include the following:

1. A statement identifying the matter of concern;
2. A statement of the reasons the MPCA should hold a public informational meeting; and
3. The issues that you would like the MPCA to address at the public informational meeting.

Agency Contact Person: Written comments and requests for more information should be directed to:

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TTY users may call the MPCA teletypewriter at 651-282-5332 or 1-800-657-3864.