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**PUBLIC NOTICE
REGARDING
SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT**

Public Notice Number: 12-SW-2265

Public Notice Issued On: January 29, 2013

Last Day to Submit Comments: February 27, 2013

Name and Address of Applicant:

Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission
500 SE 4th Street
P.O. Box 658
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744

Name and Location of Facility:

Grand Rapids Sludge Landfill
N1/2 and NE1/4 of Section 3, T45, R25W
SE1/4 and SW1/4 of Section 34, T55N, R25W
City of Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota

Brief Description of Facility: The Grand Rapids Sludge Landfill (Facility) is an industrial solid waste land disposal facility. The Facility accepts primary sludge and secondary waste activated sludge generated at the city of Grand Rapids Wastewater Treatment Facility, wood yard scrapings from the UPM-Blandin Paper Company, public utility sewer cleaning solids generated by the city of Grand Rapids, and coal and wood ash generated by Minnesota Power at the UPM-Blandin Paper Company. The Facility is located in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. If approved, the permit will allow the proposed operation for a term of 10 years.

MPCA staff contact:

Julie Henderson, P.E.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Industrial Division, 4th Floor
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
Phone: 651-757-2423
Fax: 651-757-2343
E-mail: julie.henderson@state.mn.us

NOTICE

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has received an application for a permit to continue the operation of the solid waste facility identified above. The applicant proposes to dispose of dewatered primary sludge and secondary waste activated sludge generated at the city of Grand Rapids Wastewater Treatment Facility, wood yard scrapings from the UPM-Blandin Paper Company, public utilities sewer cleaning solids generated by the city of Grand Rapids, and coal and wood ash generated by Minnesota Power at the UPM-Blandin Paper Company. The Facility is located on a 63 acre parcel in the city of Grand Rapids, in Itasca County, Minnesota.

The Facility consists of the following disposal areas with total airspace design capacities, inclusive of cover soils, distributed as follows:

Closed Original Landfill Area	1,250,000 cubic yards (cy)
Closed Kettles A, A-1, A-2, A-3, B, C, E and F	976,800 cy
Closed Kettle D and Phases 1-4	640,500 cy
<u>Open and operating Phases 5-8</u>	<u>1,350,722 cy</u>
Ultimate Design Capacity	4,218,022 cy

The permit, when reissued, will authorize disposal of 1,350,722 cy of in-place waste including all required cover soils (intermittent, intermediate and final) for Phases 5-8.

The Original Landfill Area and Kettles A, A-1, A-2, A-3, B, C, E, and F are unlined, closed disposal areas. The liner components of Kettle D and Phases 1-4 consist of a compacted clay liner system with a leachate collection system and leak detection systems. The liner system for Phases 5-8 consists of a geosynthetic clay liner overlain by a 60/1000 inch (60 mil) synthetic membrane. All lined areas include a leachate collection system and leak detection systems. Leachate collected from the lined disposal areas is transported to the Grand Rapids Wastewater Treatment Facility for treatment.

The Facility is proposing to construct a final cover system for Phases 5-8 that will consist of, from bottom to top, a 12 inch buffer/gas migration layer, a 48 inch sludge layer, and 24 inches of topsoil. The dewatered sludge from the Grand Rapids Wastewater Treatment Facility is proposed for use in the barrier layer of the final cover system. This final cover design is in place for the closed Kettle D and Phases 1-4 of the Facility.

The Facility has a constructed stormwater management system consisting of diversion berms, perimeter drainageways and a sedimentation basin to manage stormwater from the closed disposal areas. Additional stormwater management structures will be constructed as Phases 5-8 are closed.

The groundwater monitoring network for the Facility consists of 23 wells. Ten of the monitoring wells are only monitored for water level. Groundwater sampling is conducted semi-annually during the spring (April) and fall (October). Groundwater monitoring parameters are specified in this permit and are based upon known constituents of industrial and domestic wastewater sludge. Groundwater flow is to the east southeast. The current groundwater monitoring system has detected the following parameters from leachate release from the Facility: Barium, Boron, Cobalt, Manganese, Nickel, and Silver. These parameters were detected in an interior monitoring well.

After review of application materials, the MPCA Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to approve the application and reissue the permit. The MPCA has developed a draft permit. The MPCA will mail a copy of the draft permit to an interested person upon request to the MPCA staff contact or the information is also available for review on the MPCA Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-news/public-notice/public-notice.html. The file with regard to this permit, including all comments received, will be available for inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the MPCA's office located at 520 Lafayette Road North in St. Paul. The MPCA will make copies from this file upon request. There is a charge for copy orders greater than twenty pages. To arrange a time to review the file contact the MPCA staff contact. To request information regarding charges for copies, contact Dianne Mitzuk at 651-757-2573.

The procedures that the MPCA will follow with regard to this permit application are set forth in its operating and procedural rules, Minn. R. chs. 7000 and 7001. Copies of these rules are available on www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/waste/waste-permits-and-rules/waste-rules/minnesota-rules-for-hazardous-waste-solid-waste-and-tanks.html at most local libraries, and by requests directed to the MPCA. The MPCA strongly recommends that interested persons review these rules.

COMMENTS SOLICITED

By this Notice, interested persons are invited to submit comments to the MPCA on the pending application. If this application concerns modification of an existing permit, comments will only be considered regarding the portion of the permit that is proposed to be modified. To ensure consideration, comments must be received by the last day to submit comments identified above, and should include the following:

- A. A statement of the person's interest in the permit application or the draft permit.
- B. A statement of the action the person wishes the agency to take; including specific references to sections of the draft permit that the person believes should be changed.
- C. The reasons supporting the person's position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the Commissioner to investigate the merits of the person's positions.

Any submissions should display the public notice number, **12-SW-2265**, next to the address on the envelope and on each page of any submitted comments, and include a return mailing address and telephone number. The MPCA will consider all comments received during the comment period and may modify the proposed permit based on those comments. Comments received by the MPCA in response to this notice will be made part of the public record with regard to this permit.

REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING, CONTESTED CASE HEARING, AND/OR MPCA CITIZENS' BOARD CONSIDERATION

Public Informational Meeting. A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. The MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above under the section of this Notice titled "Comments Solicited" and should in addition include:

- A. A statement of the reasons the person desire the agency to hold a public informational meeting.
- B. The issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.

The MPCA Commissioner will hold a public informational meeting if the Commissioner or the MPCA Citizens' Board (Board) determines that a public informational meeting would help clarify and resolve issues regarding the MPCA Commissioner's preliminary determination to issue the permit or the terms of the draft permit. If a public informational meeting will be held, notice will be published as required under Minn. R. 7001.0120. Comments received from the public during the meeting will be considered by the MPCA.

Contested Case Hearing. A contested case hearing is a formal proceeding before an administrative law judge empowered to advise the MPCA regarding issues of fact. Interested persons may petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing on this proposed permit. To be timely, a request for a contested case hearing on a permit **must be received during the public comment period established by this Notice**. The rules of the MPCA establish what must be included in a petition for a contested case hearing, and the standard that the MPCA will apply in determining whether that petition should be granted. *See* Minn. R. 7000.1800-1900. The MPCA strongly recommends that persons petitioning for a contested case hearing review the rules before submitting a petition. If a petition for a contested case hearing is received, the Board will consider the issuance of the permit and whether the petition for the contested case should be granted.

MPCA Citizens' Board Consideration. Interested persons may petition the Board to consider this permit by asking the MPCA Commissioner to place the matter on the Board meeting agenda, or by asking a Board member to request that the MPCA Commissioner place the matter on a Board meeting agenda. To be timely, a petition must be served by mail at least 24 days before the meeting during which a petition would like the matter to be considered, or by personal service or facsimile at least 21 days before the meeting. *See* Minn. R. 7000.0650. The Board will consider the matter if requested by a Board member. Names and addresses of Board members are available at www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-overview/mpca-citizens-board/mpca-citizens-board.html. The MPCA Commissioner may deny a request to place a matter on the Board meeting agenda, but must inform the Board members of that decision.

PERMIT ISSUANCE

If there are no requests for a public informational meeting, contested case hearing, or Board consideration, the MPCA Commissioner will make the final decision on the proposed permit. Persons who have submitted comments during the comment period will be notified of the MPCA Commissioner's decision.