



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

STATE OF MINNESOTA Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

INDUSTRIAL DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)/
STATE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (SDS) PERMIT MN0062561

Public Comment Period Begins: March 27, 2013
Public Comment Period Ends: April 26, 2013

Current Permit Issued: May 1, 2007
Current Permit Expiration Date: April 30, 2012

Name and Address of Permittee:

Heartland Corn Products
PO Box A
Winthrop, Minnesota 55396-0429

Facility Name and Location:

Heartland Corn Products
State Highway 19 E
T112N, R29W, Section 5,
Alfsborg, Sibley County, Minnesota

Receiving Waters: Unnamed ditch tributary to County Ditch 42 to the Middle Branch of the Rush River

Description of Permitted Facility

The facility is designed to produce a maximum of 103.9 million gallons per year of undenatured ethanol for fuel use. Approximately 36 million bushels (approximately 1.3 million tons) per year of corn feedstock is processed through a dry milling process. As coproducts of ethanol production, the facility also produces distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS) and syrup (both of which are sold as animal feed) as well as liquid carbon dioxide. The facility also extracts corn oil as a coproduct. The facility does not market or store wet cake. The fuel for the facility is supplied by natural gas.

The facility East Plant and West Plant are separate areas that share a boiler building, associated steam lines and piping between two respective tank storage sites.

The facility water is supplied by a well field in the Mount Simon and buried drift aquifers, and by the city of Winthrop's municipal water supply. Incoming water is collected in make-up water tanks and then routed through iron filters. From there the water is routed to the ethanol production processes, the reverse osmosis (RO) units and the cooling towers. Treated water from the RO systems supply the boiler and the cooling towers. The iron filter backwashes, RO reject brines and boiler blowdown are routed back into ethanol production, as shown in the diagram below.

The wastewaters generated by the ethanol, stillage and DDGS production processes (including reverse osmosis permeate flush, still bottoms, washdown waters, floor drainage and wet air emission control wastewaters) are recycled back into the process along with boiler blowdown and cleaning residuals, resulting in no release of these wastewaters from the facility. Boiler cleaning activities are not typically conducted; if the boiler is cleaned, whether mechanically or chemically, the cleaning wastes and wastewaters are returned to the ethanol manufacturing processes. Boiler cleaning wastes/wastewaters have no blowdown or other release to the wastewater streams that ultimately are released from the facility. Clean-in-place (CIP) and hydroblasting activities are conducted periodically for the facility as maintenance; CIP and hydroblasting rinse waters, sediments and the residuals from the other non-utility waste streams noted above are returned to the ethanol manufacturing process, which leads to the ultimate generation of ethanol, stillage and DDGS. The facility does not land apply any materials, including syrup, stillage, wet cake, DDGS or other materials. No dust control chemicals are applied at the facility.

Vehicle and equipment maintenance floor drainage, in the Maintenance Building, is collected and treated with an oil/water separator before routing to the publicly owned treatment works (POTW) covered by NPDES/SDS permit MN0051098. The domestic wastewater generated by the facility also is routed to the POTW.

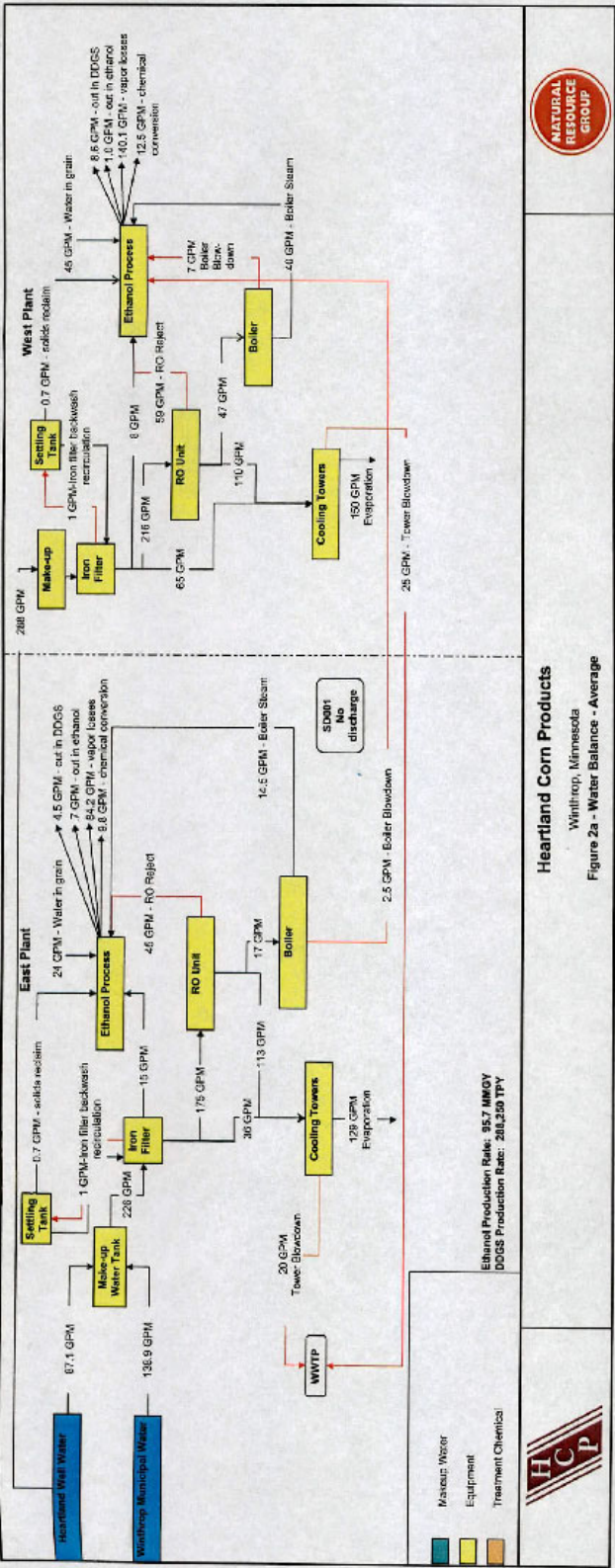
The East and West Plants cooling wastewaters are characterized by a high level of specific conductivity and total dissolved solids and residual levels of chemicals used to prevent scaling and corrosion and to control microbiological growth in the towers, and to a lesser extent heat. These cooling wastewaters also are routed to the POTW, and are designed to have no blowdown or other release from the facility. This permit reflects the elimination of the facility releases of cooling water other than via the POTW.

The Wastewater Lagoon (station WS001) has a High Density Polyethylene liner system. No wastewaters are routed to the Lagoon. The Lagoon contains various legacy residual process and utility wastewaters from the facility. Wastewater from the Lagoon can be reused in the manufacturing process in the plant (station WS003). The perimeter tiles at the Lagoon discharge through pipe station GW001 to an unnamed ditch tributary to County Ditch 42. The Lagoon may be proposed to be decommissioned during the term of this permit.

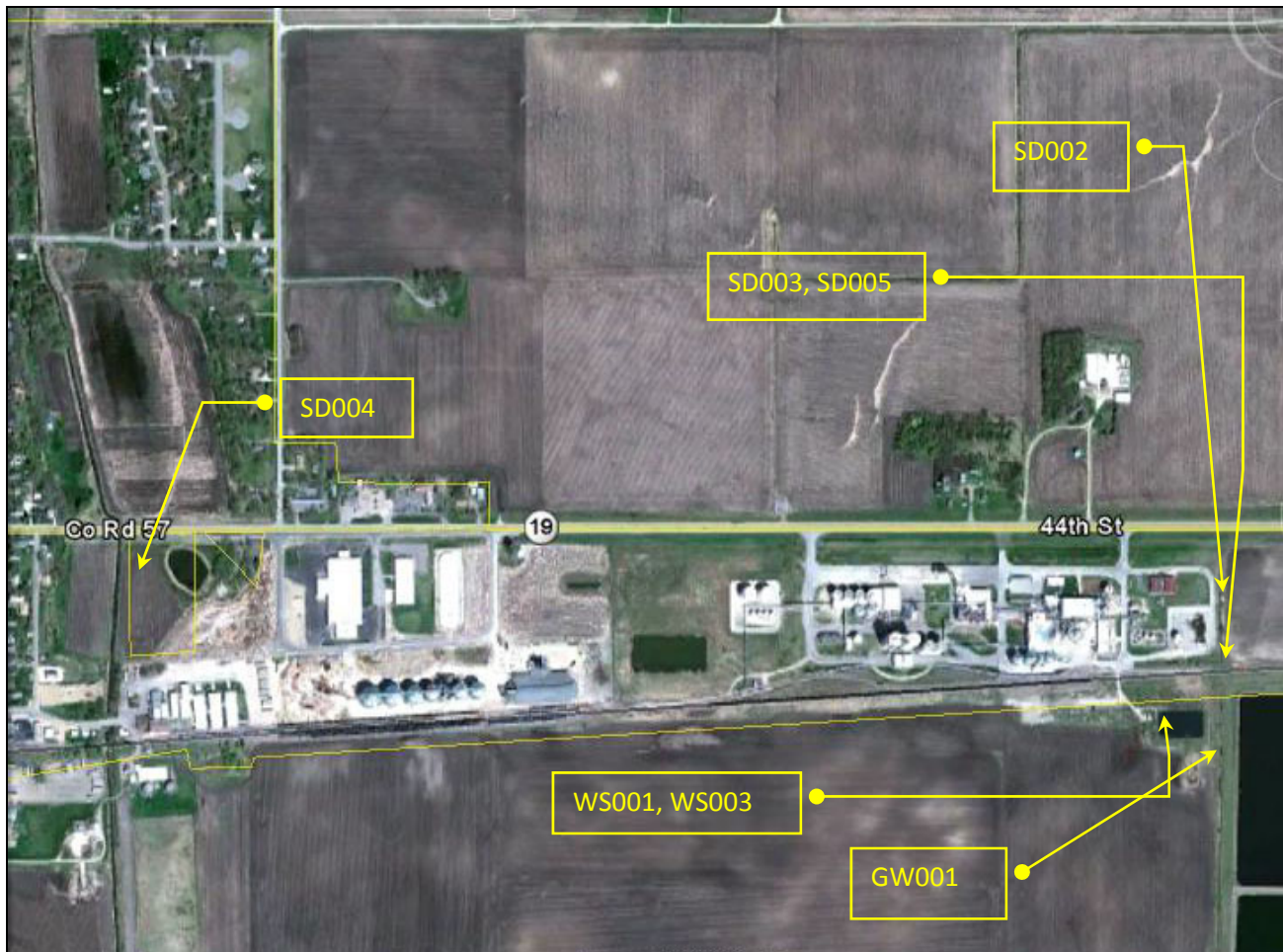
The East Plant and West Plant stormwater management systems function independently and do not commingle. The stormwater drainage from the East Plant site is routed through a series of culverts and drain tiles to an unnamed ditch tributary to County Ditch 42 through pipe outfalls SD002 and SD003. This unnamed ditch enters County Ditch 42, which drains to the Middle Branch of the Rush River. The unnamed ditch, County Ditch 42 and the Middle Branch of the Rush River are class 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 and 7 waters. A storm detention/infiltration pond at the west end of the facility collects runoff from the West Plant site. This pond does not have a designed outlet, but is designed for evaporation and infiltration. When the pond overflows, it discharges (outfall SD004) on the west side of the pond and drains overland toward a surface tile intake. The tile line drains to a holding pond to the west of the facility, and eventually into a municipal storm drain to County Ditch 42. Stormwater from the northwest portion of the West Plant site does not contact industrial materials, and drains to the highway ditch and related tiles west to County Ditch 42.

The only outdoor handling and storage of raw materials, intermediate and finished products, byproducts and solid wastes at the facility is for truck and rail fuel loading sites. The storage tanks are covered under Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) Major Facility Permit #54981; this AST permit covers the tank secondary containment drainage, which includes the gravity flows from the facility truck (East Plant) and rail (West Plant) fuel loading sites. No tank condensate is generated. The drainage that accumulates in the facility tank secondary containment areas is tested to confirm the absence of fuel-related contaminants before being routed to the West Plant stormwater pond (West Plant) and to pipe outfall SD005 (East Plant).

The locations of the designated monitoring stations are shown below.



Location of Facility



Preliminary Determination on the Draft Permit

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this NPDES/SDS permit for a term of approximately five years.

A draft permit is available for review at the MPCA office at the St. Paul address listed below, at the Rochester regional office and on-line at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/data/index.cfm?PN=1>.

A copy of the draft permit will be mailed to you if the MPCA receives your written or oral request at this office. If you have questions about this draft permit or the Commissioner's preliminary determination, please contact Jim D. Strudell at 651-757-2764.

Written Comments

You may submit written comments on the conditions of the draft permit or on the Commissioner's preliminary determination.

Written comments must include the following:

1. A statement of your interest in the permit application or the draft permit.
2. A statement of the action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft permit that you believe should be changed.

3. The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the Commissioner to investigate the merits of your position.

Petition for Public Informational Meeting

You also may request that the MPCA Commissioner hold a 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 petition requesting a public informational meeting must include the following information:

1. A statement identifying the matter of concern.
2. The information required under items 1 through 3 of "Written Comments," identified above.
3. A statement of the reasons the MPCA should hold a public informational meeting.
4. The issues that you would like the MPCA to address at the public informational meeting.

Petition for Contested Case Hearing

You also may submit a petition for a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a formal evidentiary hearing before an administrative law judge. In accordance with Minn. R. 7000.1900, the MPCA will grant a petition to hold a contested case hearing if it finds that: (1) there is a material issue of fact in dispute concerning the application or draft permit; (2) the MPCA has the jurisdiction to make a determination on the disputed material issue of fact; and (3) there is a reasonable basis underlying the disputed material issue of fact or facts such that the holding of the contested case hearing would allow the introduction of information that would aid the MPCA in resolving the disputed facts in making a final decision on the draft permit. A material issue of fact means a fact question, as distinguished from a policy question, whose resolution could have a direct bearing on a final MPCA decision.

A petition for a contested case hearing must include the following information:

1. A statement of reasons or proposed findings supporting the MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing according to the criteria in Minn. R. 7000.1900, as discussed above.
2. A statement of the issues proposed to be addressed by a contested case hearing and the specific relief requested or resolution of the matter.

In addition and to the extent known, a petition for a contested case hearing should also include the following information:

1. A proposed list of prospective witnesses to be called, including experts, with a brief description of proposed testimony or summary of evidence to be presented at a contested case hearing.
2. A proposed list of publications, references, or studies to be introduced and relied upon at a contested case hearing.
3. An estimate of time required for you to present the matter at a contested case hearing.

MPCA Decision

You may submit a petition to the Commissioner requesting that the MPCA Citizens' Board (Board) consider the permit issuance. To be considered timely, the petition must be received by the MPCA by 4:30 p.m. on the date the public comment period ends, identified on page 1 of this notice. Under the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 116.02, subd. 6(4), the decision whether to issue the permit and, if so, under what terms will be presented to the Board for decision if: (1) the Commissioner grants the petition requesting the matter be presented to the Board; (2) one or more Board members request to hear the matter before the time the Commissioner makes a final decision on the permit; or (3) a timely request for a contested case hearing is pending. You may participate in the activities of the Board as provided in Minn. R. 7000.0650.

The written comments, requests, and petitions submitted on or before the last day of the public comment period will be considered in the final decision on this permit. If the MPCA does not receive written comments, requests, or petitions during the public comment period, MPCA staff as authorized by the Board, will make the final decision on the draft permit.

Comments, petitions, and/or requests must be submitted in writing on or before the end date of the public comment period identified on page 1 of this notice to:

Jim Strudell, 5th Floor
MPCA
MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194