



# **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 MN0000892

Public Comment Period Begins: September 19, 2012  
Public Comment Period Ends: October 19, 2012

Current Permit Issued: December 1, 2006  
Current Permit Expiration Date: November 30, 2011

**Name and Address of Permittee:**

Northern States Power Co a Minn Corp  
414 Nicollet Mall MP 7B  
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

**Facility Name and Location:**

Xcel - Riverside Generating Plant  
3100 Marshall St NE  
T29N, R24W, Section 3,  
Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota

**Receiving Water:** Mississippi River (Class 1C,2Bd,3C,4A,4B,5,6 water)

**Description of Permitted Facility**

Northern States Power Company doing business as Xcel Energy Company operates a steam electric generating facility, known as the Riverside Generating Plant, located at 3100 Marshall Street Southeast, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Riverside Generating Plant covers approximately fifty-three acres located along the east bank of the Mississippi River in the SW¼ of the SE¼ of Sec. 3, and the NE¼ of the NW¼ of the NE¼ Sec. 10, T29N, R24W. The principal activity at this site is electric (steam and combustion) generation utilizing fossil fuel (natural gas) with a maximum generating capacity of 400 megawatts equivalent.

There are three sources providing water to this facility. Cooling water for the Unit 7 condenser is provided by the Mississippi River. Groundwater is used for the evaporative coolers and in the reverse osmosis and the demineralizer systems. City water is used for as a potable water supply, fire water systems, and emergency shower/eyewash. The emergency shower/eyewash discharges via floor drains. The fire water system does not result in a 'point source' discharge, and waters used for sanitary purposes are discharged to the publicly owned treatment works. Therefore these two waste streams are not regulated by this permit.

Station SD 003 consists of condenser cooling (Unit 7 condenser), auxiliary non-contact cooling water and screenhouse roof drains. This station discharges to the Mississippi River at an average rate of 86 million gallons per day and a maximum rate of 130 million gallons per day. A portion of the waste stream may be reused for deicing at the intake structure. The only pollutant added to this waste stream is heat. Thermal effluent limitations were developed based on protecting the receiving water for a cool or warm water fishery beneficial use (water quality based).

Station SD 005 is an internal waste stream for 'low volume waste stream' discharges. Average daily flow for this waste stream during the past year was 140,000 gallons per day; maximum flow reported on the application is 500,000 gallons per day. Prior to co-mingling with the SD 003 for a discharge to the Mississippi River, these waters are treated through neutralization and settling. Effluent limitations for this waste stream are technology-based in accordance with 40 CFR §423.

The permittee has certified that there is no exposure of stormwater to industrial activities. No exposure certification must be renewed at least once every five years providing the site continues to qualify. Therefore, this permit will include a chapter on stormwater associated with an industrial activity and language pertaining to stormwater discharge authorization/no exposure certification.

Dredge activities, including dewatering and temporary on-site storage, are anticipated. The location for dewatering and temporary storage is tentatively in the area of the old ash settling cells just north of the powerhouse. Protective berming or any necessary controls to decant water will be established as needed at the time of the dredge project. The standard boilerplate language established by the Dredge Team will be used to regulate this activity.

The location of the Facility is shown on the following map.

#### **Preliminary Determination on the Draft Permit**

The MPCA Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this NPDES/SDS permit for a term of approximately five years.

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

A copy of the draft permit and fact sheet 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 Brandon Smith at 651-757-2740.

#### **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:

Deb Idzorek, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Industrial Division  
520 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155



## Aerial Photo Showing Permitted Activity

