Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

MUNICIPAL DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)/
STATE DISPOSAL SYSTEM (SDS) PERMIT MN0040649

Public Comment Period Begins:	October 9, 2012
Public Comment Period Ends:	November 8, 2012
Current Permit Issued:	December 3, 2007
Current Permit Expiration Date:	November 30, 2012

Name and Address of Permittee:
City of Buffalo
212 Central Avenue
Buffalo, MN 55313

Facility Name and Location:
Buffalo Wastewater Treatment Facility
1 25th Street SE
T119N, R26W, Section 13
Marysville Township, Wright County, Minnesota

Receiving Water: North Fork of the Crow River (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 Water)

Description of Permitted Facility:
The Buffalo Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is located in the NE ¼ of Section 13, Township 119 North, Range 26 West, Marysville Township, Wright County, Minnesota. This is a Class A Facility.

Major components of the Facility include:
Collection System with gravity and/or pressure sewer
2 Fine Screens
1 Bar Screen - mechanical
Grit Removal
2 Activated Sludge Units – 2 oxidation ditches, extended aeration
1 Phosphorus Removal Tank – biological
Phosphorus Removal – chemical (ferric chloride)
3 Final Clarifiers
Ultraviolet Disinfection
2 Effluent Equalization Structures – cascade aeration

Biosolids Treatment:
6 Aerobic Digesters, designed as a process control
1 Biosolids Storage Tank – 500,000 gallons
2 Belt Filter Presses
Heat Drying - indirect or direct heat
1 Furnace Incinerator
Ash and Dried Biosolids Handling System

The existing Facility is designed to treat an annual average wet weather flow of 4,320,000 gallons per day (gpd) with a carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand strength of 158 milligrams per liter (mg/l). The Facility is designed to treat an average dry weather flow of 2,340,000 gpd, an average annual flow of 2,880,000 gpd, a peak hourly wet weather flow of 8,000,000 gpd, and a peak instantaneous wet weather flow of 8,600,000 gpd. The Facility has a continuous discharge (Station SD001) to the North Fork of the Crow River (Class 2B, 3B, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 Water).

A drain tile has been installed at this Facility to collect groundwater under the tanks and has the ability to discharge at Station GW001 to a holding pond located on-site. There are no bypass or overflow points known to exist at this Facility.

The MPCA has evaluated the treatment components of the wastewater treatment facilities with regards to the mass limits in the permit. At the time of permit issuance the Facility is operating at less than the permitted average wet weather design flow (AWWF) rate of 4.32 mgd and is demonstrating the capability of meeting the effluent mass limit of 4,775 kg/yr for total phosphorus. As the Facility approaches its AWWF, it may need infrastructure improvements and/or operational changes to maintain compliance with the mass limits.

The Facility can be further described in plans and specifications and addenda, dated November 21, 2006 and April 30, 2007, respectively, completed by the firm of Bolton & Menk, Inc., and kept on file at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, St. Paul.

In accordance with MPCA rules regarding nondegradation for all waters that are not Outstanding Resource Value Waters, nondegradation review is required for any new or expanded significant discharge (Minn. R. 7050.0185). A significant discharge is 1) a new discharge (not in existence before January 1, 1988) that is greater than 200,000 gallons per day to any water other than a Class 7 water or 2) an expanded discharge that expands by greater than 200,000 gallons per day that discharges to any water other than a Class 7 water or 3) a new or expanded discharge containing any toxic pollutant at a mass loading rate likely to increase the concentration of the toxicant in the receiving water by greater than one percent over the baseline quality. The flow rate used to determine significance is the design average wet weather flow. The January 1, 1988, design average wet weather flow for this Facility is 1,400,000 gpd.

This Permit also complies with Minn. R. 7053.0275 regarding anti-backsliding.

Any point source discharger of sewage, industrial, or other wastes for which a NPDES permit has been issued by the MPCA that contains effluent limits more stringent than those that would be established by parts 7053.0215 to 7053.0265 shall continue to meet the effluent limits established by the permit, unless the permittee establishes that less stringent effluent limits are allowable pursuant to federal law, under section 402(o) of the Clean Water Act, United States Code, title 33, section 1342.

The location of the Facility is shown on the map on page 5.

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 Detroit Lakes address listed below and on-line at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-news/public-notices/public-notices.html.

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 Holly Christensen at 218-846-8104.

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: