

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) invites public comments on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the North Star Lake Sediment Remediation project to be conducted by Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc., a steel-production facility located at 1678 Red Rock Road in St. Paul, Minnesota.

At the same time, the MPCA is seeking comments from the public on the proposed reissuance of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for the storage of hazardous waste in the closed landfill at 1678 Red Rock Road owned by Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc. (the permittee).

The 45-day comment periods for the EAW and the draft RCRA permit run from April 30 through June 15, 2012.

The EAW is a study of environmental impacts of the proposed excavation by Gerdau Ameristeel of approximately 13,000 cubic yards of metal-impacted sediment from three and one-half acres of North Star Lake. The lake is adjacent to Gerdau Ameristeel's production facility. The sediment remediation is required by the facility's RCRA permit. After dredging is complete, residuals will be managed by placing a one-foot-thick sand cover over the dredged area.

Copies of the EAW are available for review at the MPCA's St. Paul office, 520 Lafayette Road N., and on the MPCA's website at [www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html). Interested persons may request a copy of the EAW by calling 651-757-2101. Questions about the EAW should be directed to Karen Kromar at 651-757-2508 or 800-657-3864.

Written comments on the EAW must be submitted to the MPCA by 4:30 p.m. on June 15. They should be mailed to Karen Kromar, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd. N., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194, or they may be sent by email to [Karen.Kromar@state.mn.us](mailto:Karen.Kromar@state.mn.us). The MPCA will use these comments to evaluate the potential for significant environmental effects from the proposed project and to decide whether an Environmental Impact Statement, a more comprehensive environmental review, is needed.

Gerdau Ameristeel is also asking for reissuance of a RCRA permit for the storage of hazardous waste in its closed landfill, which is also located at 1678 Red Rock Road. This facility was last reissued a closed landfill hazardous waste permit on September 25, 2006. The MPCA Commissioner has made the preliminary determination that the draft RCRA permit should be reissued. The RCRA permit authorizes and requires the Gerdau Ameristeel to conduct monitoring, maintenance and corrective action at the closed hazardous waste land disposal facility and correction at solid waste management units.

In its facility, Gerdau Ameristeel melts scrap steel in an electric arc furnace. The molten steel is cast into billets, which are rolled into the finished shapes. The shredder capacity is 2,000 tons of processed auto scrap per day. The maximum still mill capacity is approximately 700,000 tons of billet steel per year. The electric arc furnace dust is a listed hazardous waste, K061, since the flue dust typically contains chromium, lead and cadmium. The regulated unit at the facility is a hazardous waste landfill that has been permanently closed as a land disposal Flue Dust Landfill. This landfill contains 34,000 cubic yards of electric arc furnace flue dust.

The RCRA permit application, draft permit, public notice, and fact sheet are available for review on the MPCA website, <http://www.pca.state.mn.us>. This website may be accessed at the Government Documents Section of the St. Paul Central Library at 90 Fourth Street West in St. Paul. The draft permit

and related documents are also available for review from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays in the administrative record at the offices of the MPCA. Call Kathy Gedde at 651-757-2382 for additional information or write to Kathy Gedde, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd. N., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194

Through June 15, 2012, interested persons may send written comments on the draft permit to Kathy Gedde at the above address, request a public meeting, or request a contested case hearing in accordance with Minn. R. 7001.0110, 7001.0130, and 7001.0670. Under these rules, written comments must include (1) a statement of the person's interest in the permit modification; (2) a statement of the action the person wishes the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft permit reissuance that the person believes should be changed; and (3) the reasons supporting the person's position, stated with sufficient specificity to allow the MPCA to investigate their merits. The MPCA will use the comments it receives to decide whether additional permit requirements are necessary, or a contested case hearing for the permit is warranted.

After the close of the public notice period, all comments and requests for all public informational meetings or contested case hearings will be reviewed. A final determination on the permit reissuance will be made at that time. A formal response to these comments will be prepared in accordance with MPCA Rules. Notification of the permit modification decision will be provided to each person who submitted written or oral comments or requested a notice of decision.



# Environmental Assessment Worksheet and proposed RCRA permit reissuance for Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has completed an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the North Star Lake Sediment Remediation project to be conducted by Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc., a steel-production facility in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The MPCA has also drafted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for Gerdau Ameristeel's closed hazardous waste flue dust landfill. As the owner and operator, Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc. is the permittee. (A permittee is one or more entities that enter into an agreement with a regulatory agency to conduct or perform a specific activity.) The MPCA is recommending that the RCRA permit be reissued.

The EAW and the draft permit have been placed on public notice, with a 45-day comment period. The MPCA is accepting comments on the EAW and draft permit from April 30 until 4:30 p.m. on June 15, 2012.



## The facility

This Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc. facility is at 1678 Red Rock Road in St. Paul. The facility melts scrap steel in an electric arc furnace. The molten steel is cast into billets, which are rolled into finished shapes. The shredder capacity is 2,000 tons of processed auto scrap per day. The maximum still mill capacity is approximately 700,000 tons of billet steel per year.

The electric arc furnace dust is a listed hazardous waste, K061, since the flue dust typically contains chromium, lead and cadmium. The regulated unit at the facility is a hazardous waste landfill that has been permanently closed as a land disposal flue dust landfill. This closed landfill contains 34,000 cubic yards of electric arc furnace flue dust.

Under state and federal regulations, this activity requires a hazardous waste permit.

## The Environmental Assessment Worksheet

The EAW is a study of environmental impacts of the proposed excavation by Gerdau Ameristeel of approximately 13,000 cubic yards of metal-impacted sediment from three and one-half acres of North Star Lake. The lake is adjacent to Gerdau Ameristeel's building. The sediment remediation is required by the facility's RCRA permit. After dredging is complete, residuals will be managed by placing a one-foot-thick sand cover over the dredged area.

Copies of the EAW are available for review at the MPCA's St. Paul office, 520 Lafayette Road North, and on the MPCA website at [www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/eaw/index.html). Interested persons may request a copy of the EAW by calling 651-757-2101. Questions about the EAW should be directed to Karen Kromar at 651-757-2508 or 800-657-3864.

Written comments on the EAW must be submitted to the MPCA by 4:30 p.m. on June 15, 2012. They should be mailed to Karen Kromar, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd. North, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194, or they may be sent by e-mail to [Karen.Kromar@state.mn.us](mailto:Karen.Kromar@state.mn.us).

The MPCA will use the comments it receives to evaluate the potential for significant environmental effects from the proposed project and to decide whether an Environmental Impact Statement, a more comprehensive environmental review, is needed.

## The draft RCRA permit

Gerdau Ameristeel is asking for reissuance of its RCRA permit for the storage of hazardous waste in its closed landfill, which is also located at 1678 Red Rock Road. The facility was last reissued a closed landfill hazardous waste permit on September 25, 2006. The permit covers these areas of the facility's operations: authorized wastes; maintenance and postclosure care for the hazardous waste landfill; facility inspections; site security; personnel training; emergency prevention and response procedures; reporting and record-keeping; postclosure financial assurance; liability coverage; corrective action schedule; and groundwater monitoring.

The MPCA Commissioner has made the preliminary determination that the draft RCRA permit should be reissued. The RCRA permit authorizes and requires the Gerdau Ameristeel to conduct monitoring, maintenance and corrective action at the closed hazardous waste land disposal facility and correction at solid waste management units.

## What is the permit process and how can I participate?

Minnesota facilities whose activities have the potential to affect the environment must obtain MPCA permits for those activities. Permit conditions require operation and maintenance of the facility in a manner protective of human health and the environment.

The MPCA is authorized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to administer its hazardous waste management program (in lieu of the federal hazardous waste management program) except for portions of the EPA standards for containment buildings, organic air emissions, and land disposal requirements.

Facilities must meet the terms and conditions of their permits. To ensure facility compliance, the MPCA and EPA regularly inspect facilities and take appropriate action if a facility is found violating its permit.

Before permits are issued, modified or reissued, the MPCA and the EPA place draft permits on public notice and seek comments from interested citizens. Under MPCA rules, a written comment must include:

- a statement of the writer's interest in the proposed permit;
- a statement of the action the MPCA is requested to take, including specific references to the draft permit language to be changed; and
- the reasons supporting the writer's position, stated as specifically as possible.

Interested parties may also make a request for the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting or a contested case hearing, which is a formal hearing before an administrative law judge. These requests go before the MPCA's Citizens' Board. The board may approve the request for a meeting or hearing if:

1. the person making the request raises an important question regarding the facts in the case;
2. it is determined that the MPCA has the authority to make decisions based on the facts; and
3. the facts in question are such that a contested case hearing or informational meeting would help the MPCA make its decision on the permit.

After the public comment period, all comments and requests for a public informational meeting or a contested case hearing are evaluated. If a meeting or hearing request is denied, the MPCA decides whether to reissue the permit. However, if a meeting or hearing is held, the permit decision is made after the meeting or hearing. In either case, each person submitting written comments receives a formal response summary of the MPCA's final permit decision.

## **To get more information or to comment on the draft permit**

A copy of the RCRA permit application, draft permit, and public notice are available for review on the MPCA website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us>. Those who do not have a computer may access this website at the Government Documents Section of the St. Paul Central Library, 90 Fourth Street West in St. Paul.

The MPCA will also mail a copy of the draft permit and this fact sheet to any interested person. For more information, call Kathy Gedde of the MPCA at 651-757-2382 or toll-free at 800-657-3864, or write to Kathy Gedde, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd. N., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194, e-mail [Kathy.Gedde@state.mn.us](mailto:Kathy.Gedde@state.mn.us).

The draft permit and related documents are also available for review from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays in the administrative record at the offices of the MPCA. Call Kathy Gedde at 651-757-2382 for additional information or write to Kathy Gedde at the above address.

Through June 15, 2012, interested persons may send written comments on the draft permit to Kathy Gedde at the above address, request a public meeting, or request a contested case hearing in accordance with Minn. R. 7001.0110, 7001.0130, and 7001.0670. Under these rules, written comments must include (1) a statement of the person's interest in the permit reissuance; (2) a statement of the action the person wishes the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft permit reissuance that the person believes should be changed; and (3) the reasons supporting the person's position, stated with sufficient specificity to allow the MPCA to investigate their merits. The MPCA will use the comments it receives to

decide whether additional permit requirements are necessary, or a contested case hearing for the permit is warranted.

After the close of the public notice period, all comments and requests for all public informational meetings or contested case hearings will be reviewed. A final determination on the permit reissuance will be made at that time. A formal response to these comments will be prepared in accordance with MPCA Rules. Notification of the permit reissuance decision will be provided to each person who submitted written or oral comments or requested a notice of decision.

Citizens may also contact Gerdau Ameristeel US, Inc. directly by calling Doug Stolowski at 651-731-5697.