



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 MN0056081

Public Comment Period Begins: May 29, 2012

Public Comment Period Ends: June 28, 2012

Current Permit Issued: December 4, 2007

Current Permit Expiration Date: November 30, 2012

Name and Address of Permittee:

Saint Paul Port Authority
345 Saint Peter St Ste 1900
St. Paul, MN 55102

Facility Name and Location:

St Paul Port Authority-Dredge
637 Barge Channel Rd
T28N, R22W, Section 9,
St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota

Description of Permitted Facility

The St. Paul Port Authority conducts dredging in different areas of the Mississippi River within the City of St. Paul Harbor. This permit authorizes the management of dredged material from the Southport and Red Rock Terminals in the Saint Paul Harbor. These terminals serve industry that utilize waterborne shipping with a barge channel providing access for Midwest producers to the Mississippi River transportation system, gulf coast ports and world-wide markets.

Southport Terminal

The Southport Terminal is located in Section 9, Township 28 North, Range 22 West, St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota and along the Upper Mississippi River at river mile 841R. The St. Paul Port Authority also operates the USACE dredge disposal site at Southport that is adjacent to the Southport barge channel.

This permit authorizes mechanical removal and management of dredged sediment at the Southport Terminal for the following:

1. Maintenance dredging purposes for access to terminal load-out facilities and dock walls; and,
2. The staged removal of sediment deposits within the channel proper at the confluence of the channel mouth and the Mississippi River (the knob area).

On-going maintenance dredging at the Southport Terminal consists of the periodic clean out of the channel and along the terminal dock walls on an as needed basis. Each maintenance dredging project along the dock wall usually comprises 2,000 to 3,000 cubic yards of silt and sand material per year.

In addition, the staged removal of approximately 50,000 cubic yards of sediment deposits at the confluence of the barge channel with the Mississippi River ("the knob") will be done in increments. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards will be removed in 2012 with the balance removed during the 2013 and 2014 dredging seasons. When completed, the removal of the knob area will return the confluence to the approximate conditions existing in the mid-1980's.

Construction of 1190 feet of new dock wall was completed in 2011 along a major portion of the northerly length of the barge channel. This section of dock wall is served by a stormwater system that drains surface water 60 feet back from the dock wall and filters it through two rain gardens before being routed to 2 NURP settling ponds for infiltration into the surrounding wetlands area. A third NURP settling pond exists to provide drainage and sediment control at the head of the barge channel.

Red Rock Terminal

The Red Rock Barge Terminal is located in Section 23, Township 28 North, Range 22 West, St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota and is along a connecting channel between Pigs Eye Lake and the Upper Mississippi River at approximate river mile 833.2L.

On-going maintenance dredging at the Red Rock Terminal consists of periodic dredging on an as needed basis of the connecting channel and various loading facilities and dock walls within the channel & lake. Dredging projects usually comprise 2,000 to 5,500 cubic yards of silt and sand material per year.

This permit authorizes mechanical removal and management of dredged sediment at the Red Rock Terminal for the following:

1. Maintenance dredging purposes for access to terminal load-out facilities and dock walls; and,
2. The occasional removal of sediment deposits within the channel proper from the confluence of the channel mouth at the Mississippi River and reaching into Pigs Eye Lake.

Common to both terminals

There is no return water or other discharge from the project sites or placement area associated with either project; surface water discharge is not authorized by this permit.

The nature and quality of dredged sediment removed will vary considerably depending on its location in the channels. Dredged material removed under both projects will be placed for temporary storage at the US Army Corps of Engineers placement site identified as 2-836.3-RMP: "Southport" (Channel Maintenance Management Plan dated 4/96), which is located on-site at Southport. Dredged material will remain in the placement site for a period of up to a year for dewatering, followed by re-use of the dredged materials. Sediment samples will be taken from each removal phase after dewatering at the placement site, but prior to final disposition; the composition and pollutant level of the respective material will dictate its final disposition in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

Storage, treatment, disposal and/or reuse of dredged material are authorized in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Prior to the use of a site for the storage, disposal, and/or reuse of dredged material, the Permittee shall obtain written Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) approval for such use.

This permit does not authorize or otherwise regulate dredging activity. However, dredging activity is subject to the water quality standards specified in Minn. R. chs. 7050 and 7060. Surface water discharge, except stormwater and incidental discharges as specified by this permit, is not authorized under the terms of this permit.

The location of the Facility is shown on the attached 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 is 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 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 Emily Schnick at 651-757-2699.

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.

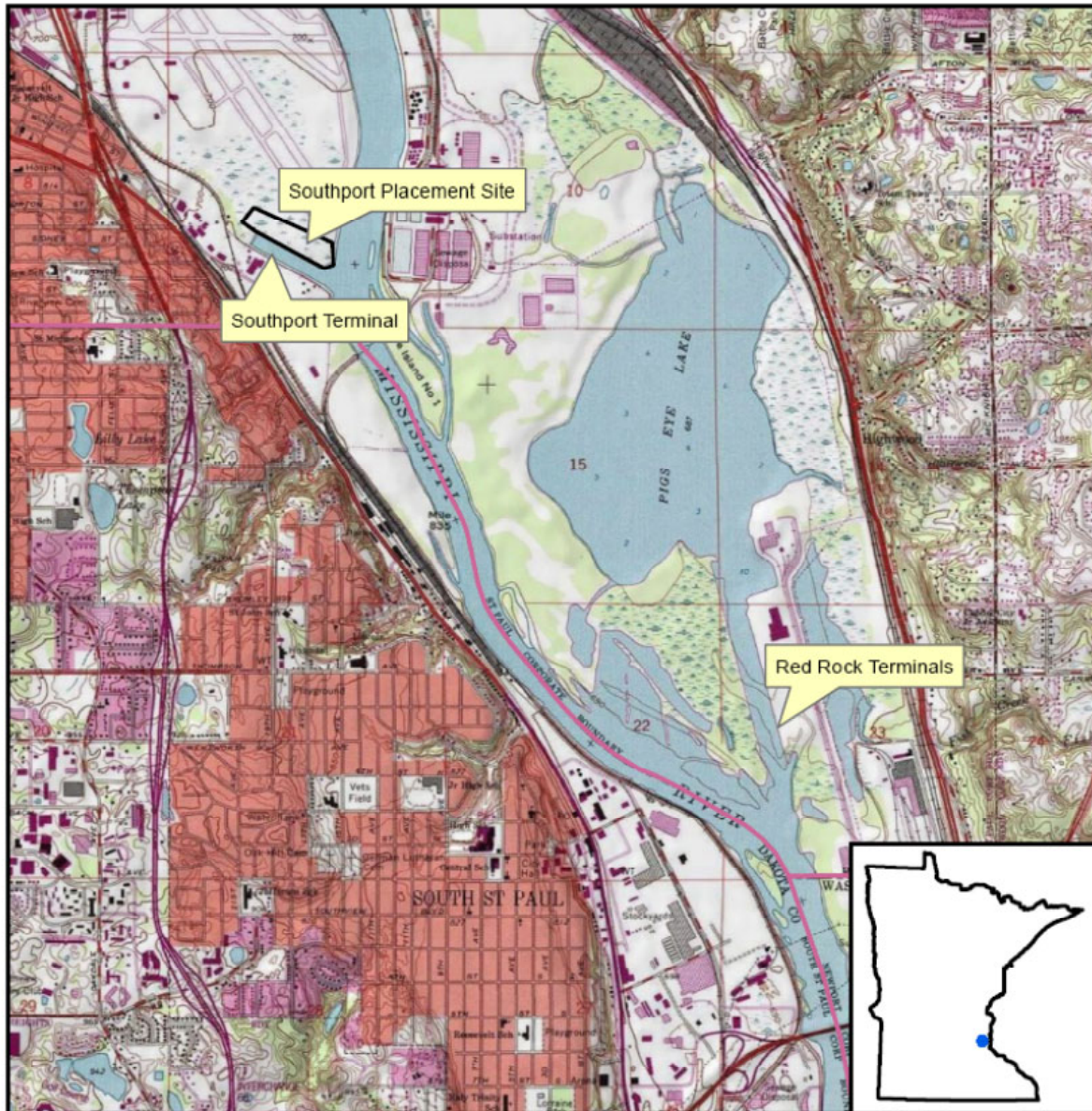
The written comments, requests, and petitions submitted on or before the last day of the public comment period will be considered in the final decision on this permit. If the MPCA does not receive written comments, requests, or petitions during the public comment period, MPCA staff as authorized by the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

Emily Schnick 5th Floor
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Topographic Map of Permitted Facility

MN0056081: St. Paul Port Authority Dredge
T28N, R22W, Sections 9 & 23
St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota



Map produced by: MPCA Staff, 05/02/12
Source: USGS Quad
Scale: 1:25,000

0 0.225 0.45 0.9Miles

