

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) invites public comments on a proposed Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit reissuance for the Mayo Clinic hazardous waste facility located at 200 First Street Southwest in Rochester, Minnesota.

The public comment period runs from July 10, 2012, to August 24, 2012.

A Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for the hazardous waste storage facility was first issued to Mayo Clinic on October 26, 1994. The RCRA permit was reissued on October 20, 1999, and the existing RCRA permit was reissued on February 2, 2006.

The RCRA permit authorizes and requires the Mayo Clinic, the permittee, to properly store hazardous waste in storage containers in the storage and accumulation area located in the basement of the Baldwin Building. These wastes are currently brought from both on-site and off-site (Mayo-owned) operations. Mayo Clinic is a private, not-for-profit organization engaged in the group practice of medicine and in conducting substantial programs in medical research, a medical school, a graduate school in medicine and surgical specialties, and a school of allied health sciences. The Baldwin Building storage area has been designed to manage waste having a wide variety of physical and chemical properties. The specific waste codes and waste descriptions that Mayo Clinic is authorized to store can be found in the draft permit. The total maximum storage capacity for the storage area is 2,962 gallons.

The MPCA commissioner has made the preliminary determination that the permit should be reissued. A copy of the draft permit, fact sheet, and Statement of Basis will be mailed to any interested person if a request is made by writing to the MPCA or by calling John Chikkala of the MPCA at 651-757-2271 or TDD 651-282-5352. The draft permit and related documents are also available for review on the MPCA website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/>.

The State of Minnesota is authorized to administer its hazardous waste program (in lieu of the federal hazardous waste management program), excluding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-promulgated RCRA standards for land disposal requirements and organic air emissions.

The draft RCRA permit and application are available for public inspection and photocopying from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at the MPCA's St. Paul office, 520 Lafayette Road North. A copy of the draft permit and fact sheet will be mailed to any interested person if a request is made in writing to the MPCA, or by calling John Chikkala at 651-757-2271 or 800-657-3864. For additional information or to submit comments on the draft permit, write to:

John Chikkala, P.E.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Industrial Division, 5th Floor
520 Lafayette Rd. N.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194

651-296-8717 - Fax; john.chikkala@state.mn.us – E-mail

Interested persons may provide comments about the draft permit to the MPCA on or before August 24, 2012, at the above address. Interested persons may also request a public meeting or 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 as to allow the MPCA to investigate the merits of those positions.

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 about reissuance of the RCRA permit will be made at that time. A formal response to these comments will be prepared in accordance with MPCA rules. Notification of the permit decision will be provided to each person who submitted written or oral comments or requested a notice of decision.

Proposed RCRA permit reissuance for Mayo Clinic

Geographic fact sheet 55-03 • May 2012

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has drafted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for Mayo Clinic's Baldwin Building hazardous waste storage and accumulation area. As the owner and operator, Mayo Clinic is considered 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 has determined that Mayo Clinic is currently in compliance with applicable state and federal hazardous waste rules and recommends that the RCRA permit be reissued. This draft permit has been placed on public notice from July 10, 2012, to August 24, 2012.

The facility

The Mayo Clinic's Baldwin Building hazardous waste storage facility is located at 200 First Street S.W. in Rochester, Minnesota. The facility is designed to safely manage a wide variety of hazardous wastes. A significant portion of the wastes stored in the Baldwin Building are used or unused pure chemical reagents which are no longer of use to laboratory or clinic personnel. The storage facility, which has a maximum storage capacity of 2,962 gallons, serves as a storage and accumulation area for all Mayo-owned sites.



Under state and federal regulations, these activities require a hazardous waste permit.

The permit

The RCRA permit was originally issued October 26, 1994. The permit was reissued October 20, 1999, and February 2, 2006.

The permit covers these areas of the facility's operations:

- authorized wastes;
- operating conditions for proper storage;
- facility inspections;
- site security;

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- personnel training;
- emergency prevention and response procedures;
- reporting and record keeping;
- closure requirements and financial assurance; and
- liability coverage.

The permit process and public participation

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. The EPA has drafted a federal portion of the RCRA permit to address Mayo Clinic's organic air emissions and land disposal requirements.

Facilities must meet the terms and conditions of their permits. To ensure facility compliance, the MPCA and the 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:

1. a statement of the writer's interest in the proposed permit;
2. a statement of the action the MPCA is requested to take, including specific references to the draft permit language to be changed; and
3. 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:

- the person making the request raises an important question regarding the facts in the case;
- it is determined that the MPCA has the authority to make decisions based on the facts; and
- 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.

For more information or to comment

A copy of the permit application, draft permit, and public notice are available for review on the MPCA website at www.pca.state.mn.us. This website may be accessed at the Rochester Public Library, 101 Second Street, Southeast, Rochester, Minnesota.

The MPCA will also mail a copy of the draft permit and this fact sheet to any interested person. For more information, call John Chikkala of the MPCA at 651-757-2271 or toll-free at 800-657-3864.

This draft permit and related documents are also available for review on the MPCA website at www.pca.state.mn.us/news.

Citizens may also contact Mayo Clinic Rochester directly by calling Greg Smith at 507-284-6369.