



**Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency**

520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Public Notice of Intent to Modify

an Individual NPDES/SDS Permit for a
Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
Permit Number MN0070025

Doc Type: Public Notice

Facility Specific Information

Public comment period begins: August 30, 2012

Public comment period ends: October 1, 2012

Current coverage issued: August 5, 2011

Current permit expiration: July 31, 2016

Name and address of Permittee:

Kurt and Trisha Schumacher

29950 Highway 247

Elgin, MN 55932

Kenny and Mary Schumacher

27857 County Road 25

Elgin, Minnesota 55932

Facility name and location:

Schumacher Farms of Elgin, Inc.

29950 Highway 247

Elgin, MN 55932

SE ¼, Section 9, T108N, R12W

Elgin Township, Wabasha County, Minnesota

Watershed/Basin: Zumbro River watershed/ Mississippi River Basin

Description of permitted facility:

The existing facility consists of 900 head of mature dairy cattle, 495 head of dairy heifers, and 470 head of dairy calves, for a total of 1,700.5 animal units housed in a total confinement barns, partial confinement barns, and open-lots with run-off controls. Liquid manure is stored in three basins; one earthen lined, one earthen/composite lined and one concrete basin with adjacent sand-lanes, until land applied, according to a nutrient management plan.

The facility is proposing to add an additional total confinement barn to house 200 head of mature dairy cattle and a proposed milking center (parlor and holding area). This expansion will add an additional 280 animal units, for a total of 1,980.5 animal units of dairy livestock. Included with this expansion proposal are plans to modify the existing feed storage to collect and contain the feed pad run-off and silage leachate. The feedpad run-off and silage leachate will be collected and contained in the existing liquid manure storage basins. Manure will continued to be stored in the current liquid manure basins until land applied, according to a nutrient management plan. This is a modification of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) / State Disposal System (SDS) Permit coverage to the facility.

Preliminary Determination on the Draft Permit

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify this National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Permit for the remaining term of the existing permit.

A draft permit is available for review at the MPCA office 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 (if applicable). If you have questions about this draft permit or the Commissioner's preliminary determination, please contact Steven Schmidt at 507-206-2618.

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:

Steven Schmidt
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
18 Wood Lake Drive Southeast
Rochester, MN 55904
507-285-7343