

From: [rogerbjork](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Air quality reporting
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:01:09 AM

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I strongly support mandatory reporting for hazardous air pollutants. I recommend a strict timeline for reporting when operational data indicate a pattern leading to exceedences.

Roger Bjork
4043 White Bear Pky
White Bear Lake 55110
6518151334

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: [Heidi Haltson](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Air toxicity reporting
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 3:26:39 PM

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I agree that air toxicity reporting should be mandatory. Maybe not three times a year, maybe start with once a year for the first year then twice the second year, then three times a year from then on.

This would allow businesses to get a reporting system in place.

Thank you,

Heidi Haltson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andrew C Leith](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Air Toxics reporting changes
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 11:10:16 AM

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I have no concerns about the reporting being made mandatory or annual. I do have concerns that the MPCA does not have the ability to adequately handle the additional data that will be collected. As an example, the MNrisk tool is currently, according to the website, using data from 2011 and is going to be updated to 2014. What is the point in collecting data on an annual basis when you can't keep up with data collected every three years?

Andrew Leith, Ph.D.

Solid Waste Facility Project Manager
Hennepin County, Environment and Energy Dept.
701 4th Ave. S. Suite 700
Minneapolis, MN 55415
Tel: 612 348-8993
Mobile: 612 235-0816
Andrew.leith@hennepin.us

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From: [DG](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: [Kelly](#)
Subject: Air Toxics Reporting feedback
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 6:28:22 PM

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Hello Ms. Wenger,

I'm responding to specific questions surrounding Air Toxics Reporting and a request for feedback. Please see specifics below.

Would you use the information we collect?

It depends upon the integrity of the data.

How?

I might use it to consider where to purchase a home, whether or not to stay in a home and what health impact my family might be exposed to over the course of time.

Do you have concerns or questions about reporting burden?

Yes. I don't consider the information culled from self reporting accurate and/or a burden. I do consider accurately reporting air toxics, a responsibility on the part of companies that are allowed to do business in our great state. Especially, given many businesses involved in polluting our air, are located near residential homes and schools.

*** How does this reporting burden change when the inventory is not voluntary but mandatory?**

The 'burden' changes if companies have to develop a systematic, accurate way to report. Mandating reporting - adds credibility to the notion that it's necessary and should be accurate. ... And, why are we asking how to simplify reporting. vs bolster the integrity of the data?

I suggest that the MPCA require that permit fees fund the ability for the MPCA to contract with outside agencies who would be responsible to ensure accuracy in reporting data. Much like banks are subject to external audits, vs. being asked how they can be less 'burdened' by record keeping.

How should MPCA create the list of Air Toxics and maintain it over time?

Any list should be created with data integrity in mind. It should be maintained in a manner that enables citizens to access information, with ease. The data should be verifiable and contain records that denote how figures were arrived at. Data should also include air testing information, as should be required along with reporting.

How to balance emerging pollutants of concern with a fixed list of air toxics in a rule?

I suggest more stringent criteria for emerging pollutants and a total volume consideration.

What should be the process for adding a pollutant to the list?

Provide updates to companies via email with an updated web based list and a timeframe for any related compliance.

What other state's toxics inventory and/or control programs should the MPCA look at?

Those with the most stringent guidelines.

How would you like to participate in a future rulemaking?

I'd like the opportunity to continue providing feedback.

Who else should we talk to?

Environmental and public health groups.



August 6, 2020

Dear Ms. Maggie Wenger:

On July 16th, 2020, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) organized an online meeting to discuss potential changes to air toxics reporting, primarily an agency interest in making emissions reporting mandatory. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) has members across the state, many of whom hold air quality permits or are subject to air quality rules. This letter contains the Chamber's initial comments and questions on the issue of air toxics emissions reporting.

MPCA asked the following questions. We will organize our comments around them.

- Would you use the information we collect? How?
- Do you have concerns or questions about reporting burden? How does this reporting burden change when the inventory is not voluntary but mandatory?
- What would help simplify reporting?
- How should MPCA create the list of Air Toxics and maintain it over time? How to balance emerging pollutants of concern with a fixed list of air toxics in a rule? What should be the process for adding a pollutant to the list?
- What other states' toxics inventory and/or control programs should the MPCA look at?

Data Utility

MPCA's existing suite of air pollution-focused online tools and databases provide useful information for the public to understand trends and relative concentrations across geographies. As MPCA points out, the data fidelity is limited for determining neighborhood-scale concentrations and changes over time.

If MPCA's goal is to better understand community level emissions trends and potential health impacts, it seems unlikely that an incremental improvement in one sector's data would help with that goal. The emissions data from "point sources," while voluntary, have historically been of higher quality than the data for distributed, smaller sources or mobile sources of air pollution. Emissions from some categories of small sources were calculated using population-based emission factors at the county level. Improvements in calculations for those sources probably would bring more "bang for the buck" than additional requirements for industrial sources.

MPCA may also consider targeted air quality monitoring to better understand local conditions or specific pollutant concentrations. According to section 5.2 of the MPCA's 2021 Air Monitoring Network Plan for Minnesota, the MPCA monitors 10 metals at 18 TSP sites, and 7 carbonyls and 58 individual VOCs at 19 sites. The MPCA then converts these monitored concentrations into risk values and reports them online.

These efforts cannot answer every question but they seem to be better and more focused than mandatory reporting for the entire regulated community.

Even neighborhood-scale monitors may not completely characterize public health risks. Retired MPCA research scientist Greg Pratt collaborated with other researchers on many papers related to human exposure to air pollution. Two are attached. In these studies, comparisons of monitoring data at various scales showed that people's real exposures were driven by the micro-environments they experienced throughout their days.

We encourage MPCA to broadly consider potential efforts to understand concentrations of air toxics and weigh their relative effectiveness. If the goal is to provide useful data for policymakers and citizens, improvements to the most uncertain data that feed our inventories and models are likely the best path. In addition, studies that compare modeled NATA results to monitoring data may provide better targets for data improvements.

Reporting Burden

Some facilities are already required to calculate emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) or air toxics. For these facilities, a routine, voluntary submittal can be manageable. For facilities that are not required to calculate and track emissions, the reporting burden can be significant.

- The number of pollutants is large (187 HAPs plus numerous air toxics).
- Calculation methods are not always available.
- Facilities may not have information necessary to calculate such emissions. For example, the information on Safety Data Sheets may not provide information at the desired level of detail (compositional data can be (i) missing, especially if below de minimus levels, (ii) conservatively high, (iii) expressed as a wide range, and/or (iv) not identified by CAS number (which can make it difficult to identify HAPs).
- Adding air toxics reporting in the Q1 timeframe is especially challenging because this is already a very busy time for reporting under other programs.

A mandatory program may increase the burden in ways that are difficult to predict. Under a voluntary program, a facility may submit available data in good faith. Once the program becomes mandatory, we are concerned with new requirements that could impose regulatory penalties for reporting errors or require analytical testing to characterize specific emissions. A stack test may cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 per pollutant per stack.

Increasing the reporting frequency from every three years to every year would also increase the burden for all affected facilities, including those already submitting emissions information for HAPs and air toxics, due to the effort spent entering data into MPCA's CEDR / e-Services system. Chamber members would prefer to keep the current triennial frequency to minimize this burden.

Any increases in reporting rigor or frequency would be associated with costs for staff time to research and calculate emissions. If MPCA intends to process these emissions estimates and enter them into dispersion modeling analyses every year instead of every three years that would also lead to increased program costs that would likely be passed along to fee-paying permit holders.

Before proceeding with any related rulemaking, the Chamber requests that MPCA conduct a cost analysis for the proposed rule. The analysis should consider the likely data collection costs for regulated facilities and the staff costs for MPCA to administer the program and process the data. MPCA could look at various scenarios, from an “everybody reports” option to a targeted program that focused on geographies or pollutants. However, as noted above, a targeted analysis may be better completed by conducting ambient monitoring than an emissions-modeling-risk assessment approach.

In general, Chamber members believe that it is in the best interests of companies to report accurate data and that a shift to mandatory reporting may have a minimal effect on the overall public health information available. Before embarking on a new rule, MPCA should better characterize the expected improvements and the related costs.

Streamlining Reporting

For many facilities, compiling and submitting data for the current voluntary effort may take a week or more of real working time. A significant amount of that time is spent hard-keying the information into MPCA’s CEDR / [e-Services system](#). Many states, including Minnesota, have improved systems for uploading water quality discharge monitoring reports. An improved interface that allowed direct import of data would simplify reporting and improve accuracy.

Reporting could also be streamlined by maintaining consistency on reporting requirements over time.

Pollutant Lists

Any rule requiring reporting should establish clear guidelines on relevant compounds, *de minimis* reporting thresholds, and applicable sources. As described above, a rule could start with a limited set of sources and compounds in order to target the most important public health issues. Such an approach would add predictability and reduce the overall reporting burden.

The establishment of *de minimis* levels is not straightforward. If a facility does not have available emissions data, there may be no simple way to demonstrate that a particular compound is emitted below relevant thresholds. Facilities would be stuck in a chicken-and-egg scenario for small sources or compounds unlikely to be emitted.

MPCA should consider how to treat unique sources in any future program. Exemptions for research and development or temporary sources would be useful for permit holders and avoid extensive work to characterize sources that may not be significant.

The provision of detailed lists of compounds at a process level also creates challenges for the protection of confidential business information. MPCA should include provisions that allow sources to protect sensitive, process-specific data and formulations.

Relevant program details, including lists of compounds, should be explicitly listed in any rule and require notice-and-comment rulemaking to modify the list. In states where lists may be changed without notice, new compounds create unexpected technical challenges for regulated facilities.

State Examples

Each state's air toxics program is unique. For US EPA Region 5 states, Wisconsin is one example of a well-defined program, with pollutants and screening modeling thresholds included in rule. There are limitations to that program but it has the advantage of being predictable.

Many other states have policy-based programs, with minimal details included in rule. These programs are difficult for permit holders to manage during specific projects. We are not aware of examples of easily identified improvements to local pollutant concentrations or public health outcomes that can be attributed to these programs.

Other Comments

Chamber members are generally against increased reporting requirements as part of the MPCA's air toxics emissions inventory. Many of the most significant sources are regulated by federal NESHAPs. A number of the NESHAPs have recently undergone or will be subject to Residual Risk and Technology (RTR) reviews, which are required to demonstrate that facilities' HAP emission limits are protective of human health and the environment, with an adequate margin of safety.

Many of the MPCA's own reports state that emissions from industrial sources, both as a percent of total pollution and in absolute terms, are decreasing. A recent MPCA presentation on online air pollution tools showed this point.

The Emissions Inventory

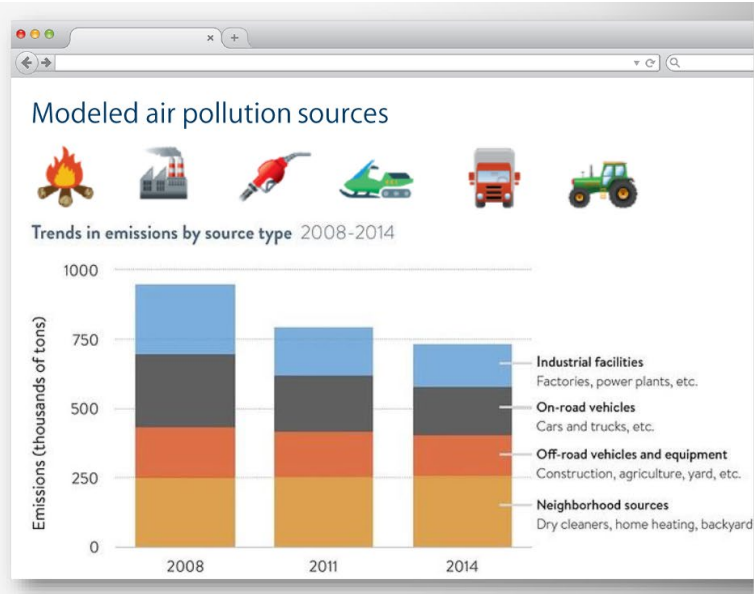
Criteria pollutants every year

HAPs / Air Toxics every 3 years

Feeds into EPA's NEI

Includes facilities as well as:

- On-road and transportation
- Off-road vehicles & equip.
- Neighborhood sources



MPCA highlighted several improvements that would potentially result from mandatory reporting, including better data quality and useful information for future program changes. However, more information is needed that links the specific proposal to these outcomes. Better data is a means to an end and a more targeted approach for certain sources or compounds may accomplish the same goal with reduced effort.

Chamber members continue to be frustrated with the timeliness of MPCA approval of permits and environmental review submittals. Reporting changes would increase the work required from key staff (e.g., dispersion modelers, risk assessors, possibly stack test coordinators) who are already in high demand. It is not a good trade off to reduce staff assigned to core regulatory programs to marginally improve data quality for emissions inventories.

Finally, as MPCA considers how to leverage existing programs to better serve communities and reduce exposure to air pollution, the Chamber reiterates its support for Clean Air Minnesota (CAM) programs and outcomes. While incremental data improvements are good, the overarching goal should be real improvements for real people, and that is where CAM excels. MPCA is already very involved with CAM and the Chamber appreciates MPCA's strong engagement and direct support for the collaborative effort. Further ramping up MPCA support for CAM projects related to clean cars, wood-burning stoves, diesel engines, and community businesses would lead to direct improvements in the air people breathe and may be a better way to spend our collective time on air quality issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MPCA's potential changes to air toxics emissions reporting. The Chamber and its members are available for further consultation as these efforts proceed.

Respectfully submitted,



Tony Kwilas
Director, Environmental Policy
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce

Enclosures: 2

Evaluating Differences between Measured Personal Exposures to Volatile Organic Compounds and Concentrations in Outdoor and Indoor Air
Comparison of Personal, Indoor, and Outdoor Exposures to Hazardous Air Pollutants in Three Urban Communities



August 6, 2020
Maggie Wenger
Maggie.wenger@state.mn.us

Dear Ms. Wenger:

The White Bear Area Neighborhood Concerned Citizens Group (“NCCG”) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s (“MPCA”) potential Air Toxics reporting rule.

The NCCG was formed in response to the disclosure of the situation at the Water Gremlin facility located in White Bear Lake Township. As the MPCA is aware, Water Gremlin had been grossly exceeding the limits on the emission of trichloroethylene (“TCE”) for 17 years, exposing members of our community to unacceptable levels of this highly toxic chemical. Since the NCCG’s formation, it has fought to hold Water Gremlin accountable and to ensure that no other community is subject to the fear and potential health effects from unknowing exposure to toxic chemicals.

It is critical for communities across Minnesota to have timely, accurate information about toxins in the air that they breathe. This applies especially to communities with high numbers of individuals experiencing poverty, people of color and/or indigenous people which are more likely to have nearby air toxics emitting sources. In addition, all communities across the state include immunocompromised people and others who are more susceptible to air pollutants. And, many communities, including the White Bear area, have already been exposed to extreme levels of air pollution.

The NCCG supports the following points for inclusion in any air toxics reporting rule:

- This should be a rule, not guidance, and should be incorporated into all permits where hazardous air pollutants (“HAPS”) are emitted.
- The reporting requirement should be extended on a case-by-case basis to emissions of chemicals that are not identified as HAPS but are known to have properties similar to HAPS, based on peer-reviewed studies. The requirement should also extend to all substances that are currently included in the MPCA’s “List of pollutants for Minnesota air toxics emission inventory.”
- Reporting should be required at least on an annual basis. If a permittee is found to have regularly or significantly exceeded their HAP limit, the MPCA should impose a more frequent monitoring requirement. Under the current tri-annual guidance, in the event there are exceedances, a potential delay of three years is unacceptable and needlessly lengthens potential exposure.

With respect to the “Questions for Stakeholders” posed at the end of the MPCA webinar on this topic, NCCG responds as follows:

Would you use the information we collect? How?

NCCG would use the information collected. NCCG has been instrumental in ensuring that information about Water Gremlin has been provided to the Community. NCCG anticipates that other local advocacy groups would similarly use the data provided to keep their communities informed about potential issues and to advocate for their communities’ health and safety with regulators and legislators.

Do you have concerns or questions about reporting burden? How does this reporting burden change when the inventory is not voluntary but mandatory?

NCCG is not a permittee. That said, air permits that include requirements related to air toxics generally have a number of requirements. If a permittee is using toxic substances in its operations, it should have the capability and resources to monitor and report on emissions of those substances. Additionally, the MPCA has had a strong track record of working with the regulated community on new requirements, and NCCG believes that the regulated community can adapt to such a requirement.

The Water Gremlin situation, which spurred the organization of NCCG, is a prime example of why such reporting is necessary. Accurate information about what is in the air we breathe leads to trust in regulation, more involved community members, and cooperation and communication between the business community and citizens.

What would help simplify reporting?

As a non-permittee, NCCG does not have insight into this question. NCCG believes that it is critical that information on air toxics be presented in a way that is accurate, timely, and easily understandable to the general public.

How should MPCA create the list of Air Toxics and maintain it over time? How to balance emerging pollutants of concern with a fixed list of air toxics in a rule? What should be the process for adding a pollutant to the list?

NCCG believes that emerging pollutants of concern must be added to the list of Air Toxics once the MPCA or the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) becomes aware of scientific evidence that a compound has the potential to act as a carcinogen or teratogen or otherwise cause adverse health effects. NCCG suggests that there be a process for stakeholders to propose that an emerging pollutant be added to the list.

What other state’s toxics inventory and/or control programs should the MPCA look at?

NCCG has no information on other state’s programs. While information on how other states are handling such programs may prove informative, MPCA should enact the program that best serves the people of Minnesota.

How would you like to participate in a future rulemaking?

NCCG would appreciate being added to any stakeholder list related to this issue, and would also be willing to participate in any stakeholder advisory groups or forums on this topic. Please add the following individuals to the contact list on this issue:

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit comments on this important initiative.

Sherry Hastings,
NCCG Chair/President sherryhastings1066@gmail.com

Sheri Smith,
NCCG Board Member sherismith1212@gmail.com

Kelly Tapkan,
NCCG Board Member, kelly.tapkan@gmail.com

Leigh Thiel, NCCG Board Member,
leigh.thiel@gmail.com

From: [Sherry Hastings](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: [Sheri Smith](#); [Kelly Tapken](#); [Leigh Thiel](#)
Subject: Comments in support of MPCA potential Air Toxics reporting rule
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:57:38 AM
Attachments: [Changes to air toxics_NCCG Response 8_6_2020.pdf](#)

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Hi Maggie:

Attached please find comments in support of MPCA potential Air Toxics reporting rule from the Neighborhood Concerned Citizens Group (NCCG). Should you need anything in addition or have questions, please let us know.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Sherry Hastings, NCCG Chair/President

wbanccg.org

(651) 324-0243

From: [Great River Area Impact Alliance](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Comments on Air Pollutant Reporting change
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:28:13 PM
Attachments: [MPCALetterWenger.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Wenger,

Please see the attached letter from the Great River Area Impact Alliance in support of the recent proposed changes to the air pollutant reporting.

Sincerely,

Great River Area Impact Alliance

From: [Leigh Thiel](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Community member in support of MPCA proposed changes on air toxics reporting
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:47:22 PM

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Hello Maggie,

I wanted to make sure my voice was heard in support of the MPCA proposed changes on the requirement for more frequent reporting of HAPs being released into the air.

I am part of the White Bear area community who experienced years of highly excessive TCE air pollution.

Would this excessive pollution have been caught earlier - before year 17 - if this regulatory change was in place?

Would Water Gremlin have exceeded their permit by tremendous levels, including emitting 120 tons of TCE into the air in 2018 - against a 10 ton/year permit - if this regulatory change was in place?

Would the MPCA have caught the irregularity in data being reported sooner, if this proposed change had been in place?

We won't ever know the answer to these questions. But, common sense would say that the odds of discovering the extreme harm Water Gremlin was imposing on our community health would have been increased.

Excessive pollution in the air of HAPs is not just a White Bear issue. It is also happening in Rosemont with Spector Alloy - already under investigation by the EPA. It has happened with Northern Metals in both Minneapolis as well as Becker.

I am all for the rights of business to operate. However, there is a standard that has to be met in order for any business to have the privilege of emitting hazardous air pollutants into our environment.

We can do better. We need to do better. We have an opportunity to do better.

Please feel free to reach out to me for any additional information and/or questions. And, please let me know how I can help Commissioner Bishop and team make these changes happen.

Leigh Thiel
WBA NCCG Board Member
651-303-0390

From: [Page Stevens](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Feedback regarding MANDATING emission info.....
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:06:52 PM

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Dear Maggie,

Having just received this opportunity to provide feedback to you, it will be shorter than all the thoughts swirling in my mind.

You MUST mandate that businesses annually report their air emission records to you.
You MUST follow through and not assume they are telling the truth.....why would they? They can get by for YEARS making higher profits before they MIGHT get caught.
You MUST have trained inspectors, who become knowledgeable with specific machinery and not take the companies word that "everything is fine".
After one or two violations, inspections need to increase at the companies expense.
You MUST take into allowance the vicinity the business is in and LOWER the amount of emissions allowed. The EPA's levels are much too high - especially in residential areas and with chemicals like t-DCE that are lacking proper researched studies.

Since the Water Gremlin levels of air emissions were revealed, I have become APPALLED learning about this old, National inadequate system of monitoring. Really, what a farce and insult to everyone BUT the businesses themselves! There seems to be a total lack of regard for the health of US citizens and the environment. There needs to be more oversight and power given (or TAKEN!) by our state agencies.

Please put the residents of MN first....BEFORE the company and their profits! We are supposedly recognized as a state that promotes a healthy way of living, but it is impossible when we are unknowingly breathing in or drinking toxic, hazardous chemicals.

Minnesota made a landmark decision to ban TCE. Now move ahead with all that has been learned and become an agency that truly has the ability to control our environment and health.

You MUST demand yearly, mandated reporting of HAP's.

Thank you for your ongoing work to improve the lives of all Minnesotans.

Page Stevens

From: [Brooks, Ned \(MPCA\)](#)
To: [Waqui, Helen \(MPCA\)](#); [Villasenor, Jose Luis \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: [Bishop, Laura \(MPCA\)](#); [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Air Toxic Rule
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:35:27 PM

Looping in Helen and Jose Luis.

From: Lea Foushee <lfoushee@nawo.org>
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2020 12:31 PM
To: Maggie.wenger@statemn.us
Cc: Bishop, Laura (MPCA) <Laura.Bishop@state.mn.us>; Brooks, Ned (MPCA) <ned.brooks@state.mn.us>
Subject: Air Toxic Rule

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Dear Maggie:

I finally read your presentation. I am aghast, but not surprised. I have to say the reporting of all toxicants should be MANDATORY. Each toxicant should be identified annually, reported as to type, amount, frequency, and any known health effects to plant, animal and human life, and most importantly **notification** to most interested groups in the community where the emissions occur. Current permitting and regulation of air toxicants does not protect and improve the environment and enhance human health according to the stated MISSION of the MPCA. It does the exact opposite. The Environmental Justice concern of the Agency must be put into action, because those who suffer sickness and even death disproportionately from these toxicants are Minnesota's most vulnerable communities in North Minneapolis and South Minneapolis Phillips Neighborhood. There should be no "Hot Spots" if the MPCA is doing its job. It is a real improvement however that the MPCA is acknowledging the existence of hot spots and discussing it in a public manner.

Lea Foushee
Environmental Justice Director
North American Water Office
651-770-3861

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From: Joy Wiecks
To: Brandy Toft; Carma Huseby (carma.huseby@llojibwe.org); Philip J. DeFoe; Vallen Cook (vallenc@grandportage.com); Nancy Schuldt
Cc: Wenger, Maggie (MPCA)
Subject: Fw: Reminder: comments on Air Toxics reporting changes due by Aug. 7
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:11:01 PM

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I don't think the hyperlink I just sent works, here is the original email from the MPCA on the air toxics item I just sent.

From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency <mpca@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Joy Wiecks
Subject: Reminder: comments on Air Toxics reporting changes due by Aug. 7

--- Always use caution when opening attachments or clicking links received in any email. Thank you
FDL IT Division---

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Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Reminder: comments on Air Toxics reporting changes due by Aug. 7

Thank you for joining our webinar on potential Air Toxics reporting changes, held on July 16. If you were not able to attend, the recording and presentation are available [here](#). As a reminder, please provide any comments by August 7th, 2020 to Maggie.wenger@state.mn.us.

The mission of the MPCA is to protect and improve the environment and human health.

St. Paul • Brainerd • Detroit Lakes • Duluth • Mankato • Marshall • Rochester

www.pca.state.mn.us • Toll-free and TDD 800-657-3864



[Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#) [[Contact us](#)]



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This email was sent to joywiecks@fdlrez.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North · Saint Paul, MN 55155 · 1-800-439-1420

From: [Jeanine Boyd](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Good Grief!
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:13:41 PM

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Dear MS Wenger:

Who ever thought it was a good idea to have businesses self-report toxic air emissions? That is the fox guarding the hen house to be sure!

I am one of the White Bear Township citizens effected by the air dumps from Water Gremlin who have continued with contempt to skirt curbs on their behavior.

While I am pro-business as a rule, I expect prudent safe guards and honest reporting to protect citizens.

I have lived in my home since 1985, and have multiple allergy problems for which I have had over ten years of shots; a breathing problem, and now a heart problem. I have been diagnosed with a chronic heart condition, and have a Medtronic Micra implant in my heart.

I wish I had purchased my home anywhere but where I now reside. Because of age and minimal Social Security income, my resources for change are extremely limited.

Please do whatever it takes to enact tough rules for potential polluters to be monitored and supervised and shut down if necessary.

Human beings are worth infinitely more than the jobs polluting companies provide. Since a foreign entity, Japan, owns Water Gremlin, they disappoint me that they have not been more conscientious in the health of all concerned. My youngest daughter taught in Japan for a number of years, and most Japanese people are very environmentally aware.

Sincerely,

Jeanine M. Boyd
4378 Oakmede Lane
White Bear Twp., MN 55110

651-429-2610

From: [Buchholz, RaeAnna](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: [Kwilas, Tony](#)
Subject: Letter on Air Toxics Reporting
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 10:06:39 AM
Attachments: [image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[es030607q.pdf](#)
[es030319u.pdf](#)
[Chamber Air Toxins Reporting Letter 8.6.20.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Attached you will find a letter commenting on MPCA on air toxics reporting.

Kind regards,
RaeAnna



RAEANNA K. BUCHHOLZ

Policy Associate



[Check out our COVID-19 Business Toolkit](#)

400 Robert Street North, Suite 1500, St. Paul, MN 55101

P: 651.292.4692

www.mnchamber.com

From: [JEANINE BOYD](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Letter re: new Pollution Laws proposed
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:28:00 PM
Attachments: [Maggie Wenger re Pollution Laws.IMG_20200807_0001.pdf](#)

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Jeanine M. Boyd
4378 Oakmede Lane
White Bear Twp., MN 55110

Home: 651-429-2610

From: [Hansen, Zack](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: [Reinhardt, Victoria](#); [Frethem, Nicole J](#); [Hedin, Kathy](#); [Reed, Michael](#); [Donkers, Dan](#)
Subject: Potential Changes in Air Toxics Reporting
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:51:16 PM

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Ms. Wenger,

I am writing on behalf of Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health regarding the possibility of mandatory reporting of air toxics. We understand that this is the initial opportunity to comment as the MPCA evaluates whether to proceed with rulemaking.

We support this concept, and believe it would be of great value in protecting public health and the environment in Ramsey County. We also believe that the strong relationship of the data from this reporting to environmental justice would greatly benefit Ramsey County.

As mentioned in the slides used in your presentation, we have prepared [vulnerability analyses](#) that are used in a number of ways, most recently to identify areas to target grants for reduction of VOCs through the [Business Pollution Prevention program](#) cited in the Power Point. Air quality related data available through tools such as MNRISKS and its translation into air pollution index through the MPCA's Environmental Justice story map are examples of additional data layers that will inform future analyses. Having more current and reliable data underlying those systems make such analyses more powerful, relevant and useful. Examples of practical applications of more complete and timely data include identifying specific entities to reach out to for technical and financial assistance; creating a more relevant and impactful Community Health Assessment, supporting public health and county strategic planning and program design, and targeting resources where they would have the most impact.

In addition, we believe it would assist in our regulatory role in hazardous waste, and increases the possibility that MPCA would be able to more readily identify air quality permit emission violations.

If developed, it would be important that the data be readily available in a timely manner to allow for public use. It would also be important to design the rule to be flexible with regard of listing chemicals to be reported, so that required reporting provides for emerging pollutants of concern. Flexibility could be accomplished by having reporting required for chemicals with certain characteristics, rather than or in addition to a specific list, in a manner that hazardous waste is reported (e.g. flammable, corrosive, ignitable, reactive).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to participating in the MPCA's ongoing process on this issue.

Zack Hansen | Environmental Health Director
Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health
Environmental Health
2785 White Bear Ave. N., Suite 350
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651-266-1160 (O)
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www.morevaluelesstrash.com

From: [Becca Fry](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Potential Changes to Air Toxics Reporting
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:37:25 PM

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Hi Maggie,

I'm reaching out about the potential changes to air toxics reporting. I want to show my support for requiring companies to report, not only triennially, but yearly. But I have questions about why this is an effort the MPCA is after.

In a CBS news story that ran on October 8, 2019, regarding Water Gremlin, MPCA Commissioner Bishop admitted there's work to be done regarding self-reporting. She was quoted as saying that self-reporting, "...has failed in this case and we've seen that fail. This self-reporting as well as this "trust our companies but verify" isn't always working. So we need to take a closer look at that," Bishop said.

From my understanding, the end result is that the MPCA wants more complete information of what companies are emitting, but as with any data analysis, garbage in = garbage out. With Commissioner Bishop acknowledging self-reporting is a broken, failing system, why make more businesses do it? It doesn't make any sense.

What has been done to ensure the data being self-reported is accurate? And what has changed to make companies suddenly trustworthy enough to require them to self-report?

Would love to discuss,

Rebecca Wayerski

(715) 340-8205

From: [Jennifer Abbey](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Public comment RE: Potential changes to air toxics reporting
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 3:57:14 PM

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Hello Maggie,

I'm not sure that I'm addressing the following public comment to the correct individual. Would you please forward to the appropriate party if necessary?

I'm writing to express citizen support for making MN facilities with air permits required to report emissions of HAPs on a regular basis to MPCA.

My family is very concerned about the higher likelihood of low-income communities and communities of color and indigenous communities to be near higher levels of air pollution in our state. We are also concerned about recent findings with Water Gremlin and Northern Metal having reported inaccurate emission information thus endangered the health of MN citizens.

We believe that more frequent, transparent reporting by companies across the state would reduce risk to our community's air quality and health.

Thank you,

Jennifer Abbey
Minneapolis, MN

From: [JEANINE BOYD](#)
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Re: Air Toxics Reporting Comment
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:25:04 PM

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Jeanine Boyd

Subject: Good Grief !

To: maggie.wenger@state.mn.us

Dear MS Wenger:

Who ever thought it was a good idea to have businesses self-report toxic air emissions? That is the fox guardirrg the hen house to be sure!

I am one of the White Bear Township citizens effected by the air dumps from Water Gremlin who have continued with contempt to skirt curbs on their behavior.

While I am pro-business as a rule, I expect prudent safe guards and honest reporting to protect citizens.

I have lived in my home since 1985, and have multiple allergy problems for which I have had over ten years of shots; a breathing problem, and now a heart problem. I have been diagnosed with a chronic heart condition, and have a Medtronic Micra implant in my heart.

I wish I had purchased my home anywhere but where I now reside. Because of age and minimal Social Security income, my resources for change are extremely limited.

Please do whatever it takes to enact tough rules for potential polluters to be monitored and supervised and shut down if necessary.

Human beings are worth infinitely more than the jobs polluting companies provide. Since a foreign entity, Japan, owns Water Gremlin, they disappoint me that they have not been more conscientious in the health of all concerned. My youngest daughter taught in Japan for a number of years, and most Japanese people are very environmentally aware.

Sincerely,

Jeanine M. Boyd
4378 Oakmede Lane

White Bear Twp., MN 55110

65L-429-2610

From: Wenger, Maggie (MPCA) <Maggie.Wenger@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 12:12 PM
To: jenmaree@live.com <jenmaree@live.com>
Subject: Air Toxics Reporting Comment

Jenneane,

If you wish to respond to this with your comment on Air Toxics reporting, I will add it to our file of comments received.

Thanks!

Maggie Wenger

651-757-2007

Maggie.wenger@state.mn.us

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From: [Brandy Toft](#)
To: [Joy Wiecks](#); [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: [Carma Huseby \(carma.huseby@llojibwe.org\)](#); [Philip J. DeFoe](#); [vallenc@grandportage.com](#); [Nancy Schuldt](#)
Subject: Re: Air Toxics
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:15:51 PM
Attachments: [036_sm_fb_a1347472-45be-4a0b-af83-b901fa688c57.png](#)
[036_sm_twitter_ead36a19-13db-46c4-9186-b34bea9f203c.png](#)

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Agreed - Thanks Joy for reaching out.

Brandy

Brandy Toft
Environmental Deputy Director



brandy.toft@llojibwe.net
<http://www.llojibwe.org/>
190 Sailstar Drive NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633



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From: Joy Wiecks <JoyWiecks@FDLREZ.COM>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 2:00 PM
To: maggie.wenger@state.mn.us <maggie.wenger@state.mn.us>
Cc: Brandy Toft <brandy.toft@llojibwe.net>; Carma Huseby (carma.huseby@llojibwe.org) <carma.huseby@llojibwe.org>; Philip J. DeFoe <PhilipDeFoe@FDLREZ.COM>; vallenc@grandportage.com <vallenc@grandportage.com>; Nancy Schuldt <NancySchuldt@FDLREZ.COM>
Subject: Air Toxics

Hi Maggie,

I'm attaching a link to the MPCA's presentation on air toxics reporting for the other air tribal folks to see. I think this is a great idea and Fond du Lac would like to have further discussions with MPCA at some point. Sorry, I meant to be on the webinar on July 16th but was not able to make it.

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/aq-ppt4-02.pdf>

-Joy

From: baseball022002@aol.com
To: [Wenger, Maggie \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Toxic Air
Date: Friday, August 7, 2020 3:34:49 PM

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I strongly urge changes to the current TOXIC air permit reporting regulations. Please don't wait until another large scale disaster like Water Gremlin is discovered and more innocent lives are completely destroyed. How much is a life worth in Minnesota? What if it was yours? Your mother's, child's, or your grandchild's life could be the next taken or destroyed because of the sheer lack of responsibility and negligence to uphold strong and safe measures to protect our citizens right to breathe non toxic air. I pray that all people in Minnesota will have that right, and stop being sacrificed for profit.

Current Survivor and Victim of Water Gremlin Toxic Disaster (17 plus years)

Ann Coffey
4214 White Bear Parkway
White Bear Township, MN 55110



Great River Area
IMPACT ALLIANCE

Great River Area Impact Alliance
Becker, Mn

August 7, 2020

Ms. Maggie Wenger
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Wenger:

We are a group of concerned citizens in the Becker, Big Lake and Monticello area who formed an alliance in the days following the fire at Northern Metals Recycling located in Becker, MN. The fire burned from February 18, 2020 to February 22, 2020 prior to the facility even opening. One of the concerns that surfaced after the formation of our group was the continued monitoring of the Northern Metals Recycling facility to ensure that they are following the limitations set in their permits.

Part of the concern arises from the fact that Northern Metals Recycling admitted that they had altered their emissions records from their North Minneapolis recycling facility. This partly contributed to their move to Becker. To know that the current practice is voluntarily reporting every 3 years is extremely concerning. If there are violations, this means that they could continue to violate for up to three years without the MPCA and the community becoming aware. If the data is being kept anyway, the permittees should be required to share this information more frequently.

Great River Area Impact Alliance supports the following changes:

1. The yearly reporting requirement should be included in any permit in which hazardous air pollutants (“HAPs”) are being released. This should be increased if there are frequent or continuing violations.

2. MPCA should release a yearly report to the surrounding communities to show compliance with, or violation of, air permit limits.
3. MPCA should conduct yearly compliance checks to confirm the accuracy of the self-reporting done by the permittee.
4. The list of air toxins should be updated frequently and based on current scientific evidence. Stakeholders should be allowed to propose additions to the list.

Great River Area Impact Alliance wishes to be considered a stakeholder to this issue and would be interested in participating in any future groups or discussions regarding this change. We feel this is an important step in ensuring that accurate and up-to-date information is disseminated to those affected most by air pollutants: the community members. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Great River Area Impact Alliance