

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/
State Disposal System (SDS) Permit Program Fact Sheet
Permit Modification
MN0022683**

Permittee: City of Austin
1205 South Main Street
Austin, MN 55912

Facility name: Austin Wastewater Treatment Facility
1205 South Main Street
Austin, MN 55912-3504

Current permit expiration date: January 31, 2024

Public comment period begins: April 5, 2021

Public comment period ends: June 4, 2021

Receiving water: Cedar River - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Permitting contact: Nancy Heskett
7381 Airport View Drive Southwest
Rochester, MN 55902
507-206-2605
nancy.heskett@state.mn.us

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Purpose and participation

Applicable statutes

This fact sheet has been prepared according to the 40 CFR § 124.8 and 124.56 and Minn. R. 7001.0100, subp. 3, in regards to a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permit to construct and/or operate wastewater treatment facilities and to discharge into waters of the state of Minnesota.

Purpose

This fact sheet outlines the principal issues related to the preparation of this draft permit and documents the decisions that were made in the determination of the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit.

Public participation

You may submit written comments on the terms of the draft permit or on the Commissioner's preliminary determination. Your 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 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (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.

You may also request that the MPCA Commissioner hold a public informational meeting. A public informational meeting is an informal meeting which the MPCA may hold to help clarify and resolve issues.

In accordance with Minn. R. 7000.0650 and Minn. R. 7001.0110, your petition requesting a public informational meeting must identify the matter of concern and must include the following: items one through three identified above; a statement of the reasons the MPCA should hold the meeting; and the issues you would like the MPCA to address at the meeting.

In addition, you may submit a petition for a contested case hearing. A contested case hearing is a formal hearing before an administrative law judge. Your petition requesting a contested case hearing must include a statement of reasons or proposed findings supporting the MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing pursuant to the criteria identified in Minn. R. 7000.1900, subp. 1, and a statement of the issues proposed to be addressed by a contested case hearing and the specific relief requested. To the extent known, your petition should include a proposed list of witnesses to be presented at the hearing, a proposed list of publications, references or studies to be introduced at the hearing, and an estimate of time required for you to present the matter at hearing.

You must submit all comments, requests, and petitions during the public comment period identified on page one of this notice. All written comments, requests, and petitions received during the public comment period will be considered in the final decisions regarding the permit. If the MPCA does not receive any written comments, requests, or petitions during the public comment period, the Commissioner or other MPCA staff as authorized by the Commissioner will make the final decision concerning the draft permit.

Comments, petitions, and/or requests must be submitted by the last day of the public comment period to:

Nancy Heskett
7381 Airport View Drive Southwest
Rochester, MN 55902
507-206-2605
nancy.heskett@state.mn.us

Please note that as this is a modification of a current permit, only comments on the proposed changes to the wastewater treatment facility and new effluent limits will be considered.

The permit will be reissued if the MPCA determines that the proposed Permittee or Permittees will, with respect to the facility or activity to be permitted, comply or undertake a schedule to achieve compliance with all applicable state and federal pollution control statutes and rules administered by the MPCA and the conditions of the permit and that all applicable requirements of Minn. Stat. ch. 116D and the rules promulgated thereunder have been fulfilled.

More detail on all requirements placed on the facility may be found in the permit document.

Facility description

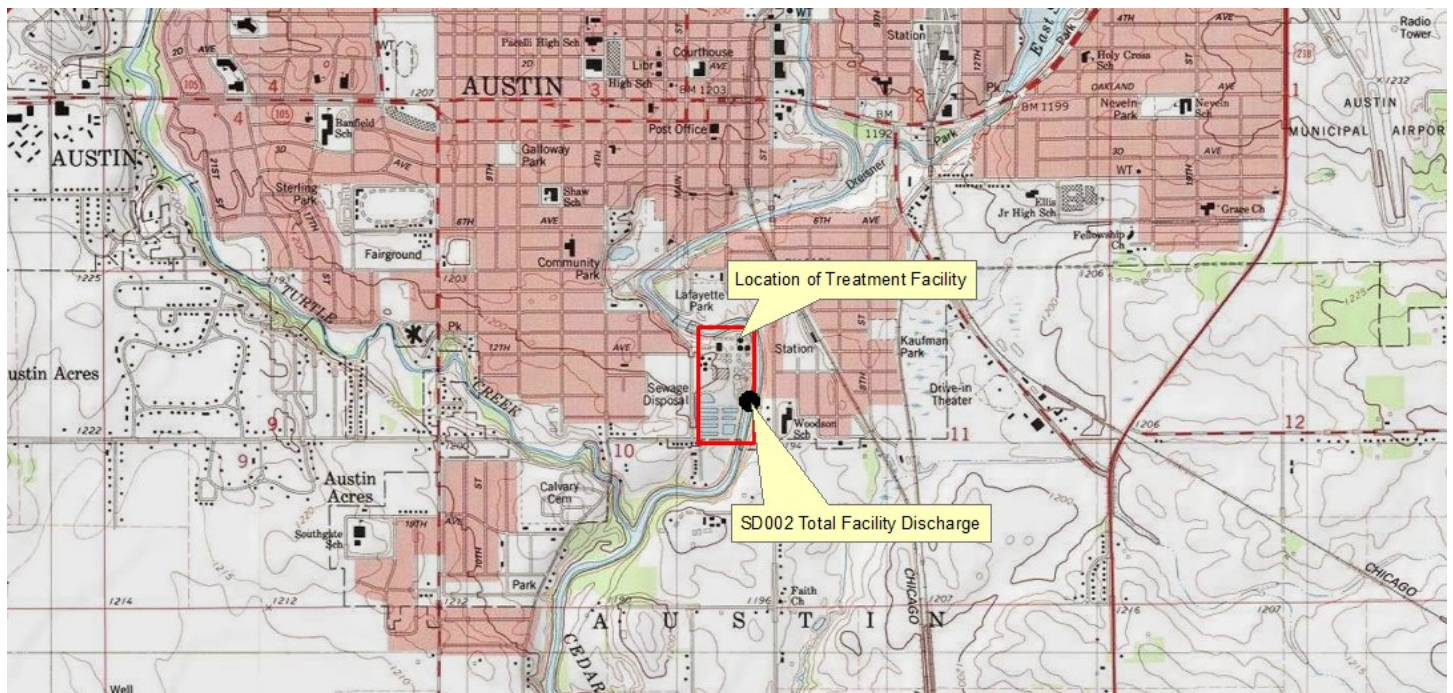
Facility location

The Austin Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is located at the SE ¼ of the NE ¼, Section 10, Township 102 North, Range 18 West, Austin, Mower County, Minnesota (latitude: 43.653548, longitude: -92.97133). The address for the Facility is 1205 South Main Street, Austin, Minnesota 55912.

Outfall location

The Facility outfall (SD002) is located next to the Facility as described above. The outfall is the combined industrial and domestic discharge of the Facility and is a continuous discharge to the Cedar River. Latitude and longitude of the outfall SD002 is 43.653548 and -92.971333, respectively.

Map of permitted facility



Components and treatment technology***Current information***

The existing Facility has a continuous discharge from SD002 to the Cedar River. This is a Class A Facility.

The Facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 8.475 million gallons per day (MGD)
- An average annual daily (AAD) flow of 6.35 MGD
 - Industrial: 2.1 MGD
 - Municipal: 4.25 MGD
- 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of:
 - Industrial: 1300 milligrams per liter (mg/L)
 - Municipal: 230 mg/L

The Facility consists of two parallel facilities, both owned by the City. The industrial treatment train treats wastewater received from Hormel Foods Corporation pretreatment facility. The municipal treatment train treats wastewater received from all other contributors including residential and industrial/commercial. The two treatment facilities combine for ammonia removal, final clarification, disinfection, and discharge. Solids are treated separately then combined for storage and land application.

The municipal treatment Facility is a trickling filter treatment system. It consists of a main lift station, three flow equalization tanks, grit removal, bar screens, three primary clarifiers, four trickling filters, two intermediate clarifiers, and is then pumped to the portion of the Facility shared with the industrial train to a nitrification trickling filter then to four final clarifiers prior to chlorination/dechlorination.

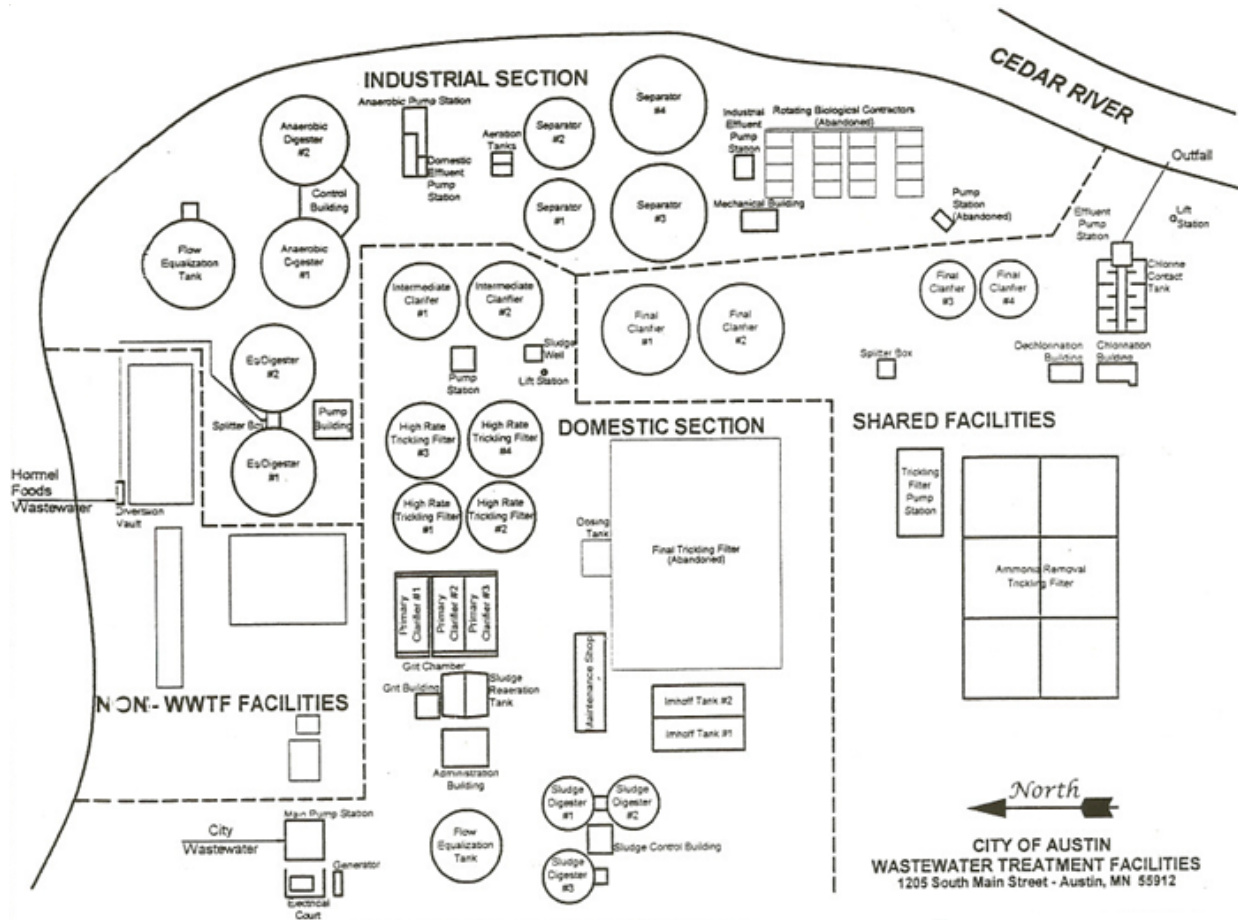
Solids are collected from the three primary clarifiers to two primary anaerobic digesters that overflow to one secondary digester. The secondary digester overflows to a pump station then to the solids storage tanks shared with the industrial Facility. The biosolids are then thickened in the sludge storage tank and land applied.

The municipal Facility has a standby generator to operate the main lift station, primary clarifiers, trickling filters, intermediate clarifiers, and chlorination/dechlorination.

The main lift station bypass structure is capable of discharging untreated wastewater to the Cedar River. This bypass is locked and manually controlled.

The Facility is further described in the plans and specifications on file with the MPCA.

Facility flow schematic



Proposed Changes to the Wastewater Treatment Facility – Open to Public Comment

The proposed facility will maintain the existing discharge from SD002 to the Cedar River and remain a Class A Facility.

The Facility is proposing to make the following changes to its wastewater treatment system:

- Replace aerated grit with vortex grit removal system
- Replace the primary clarifiers
- Replace the trickling filters with activated sludge
- Addition of chemical phosphorus removal
- Addition of Waste Activated Sludge thickening
- Addition of a fourth primary digester tank
- Addition of multi-disk screw press for biosolids dewatering
- Repurposing of the trickling filter as a biosolids cake storage facility
- Replace chlorine disinfection with Ultraviolet Light disinfection

The proposed Facility will be designed to treat:

- An AWW flow of 10.59 MGD
 - Industrial: 2.90 MGD
 - Municipal: 7.69 MGD
- An ADW flow of 5.47 MGD
- Total Suspended Solids (TSS) of:
 - Industrial: 10,800 lb/day (pounds per day)
 - Municipal: 8,100 lb/day
- CBOD₅ of:
 - Industrial: 27,300 lb/day
 - Municipal: 6,700 lb/day

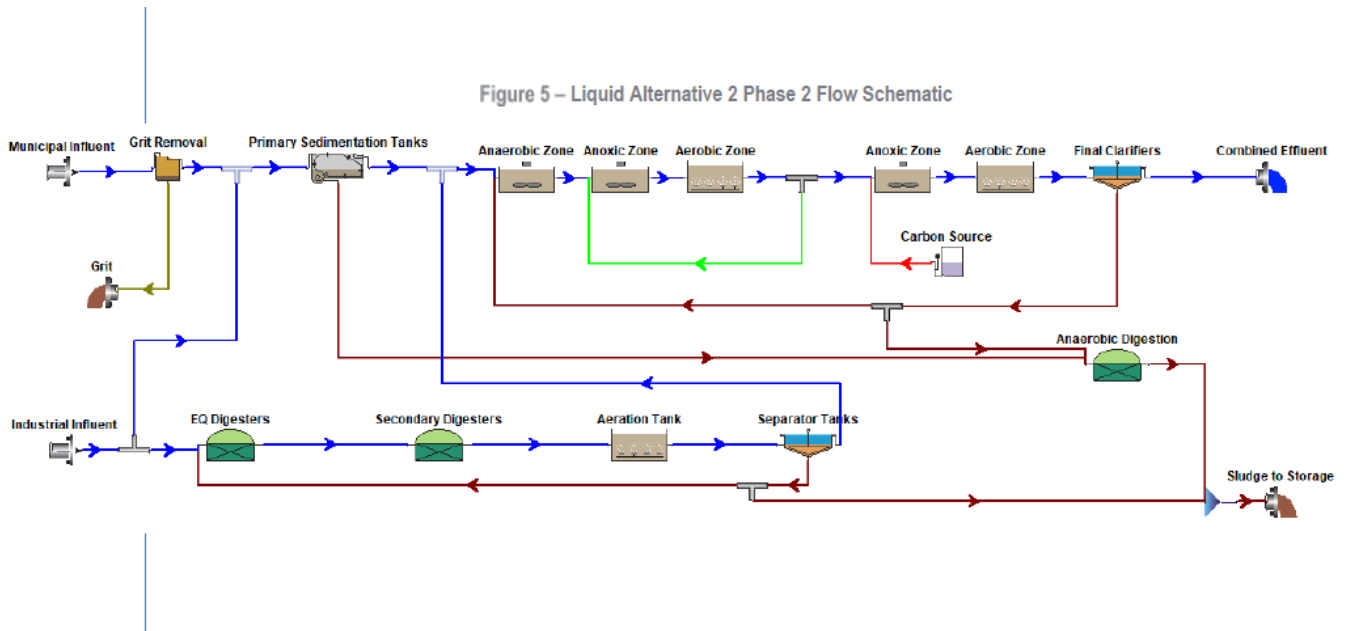
The municipal treatment system will include the main lift station, grit removal, primary sedimentation tanks and activated sludge followed by final clarifiers and disinfection.

The pretreatment facility is located at the industry and is not owned by the City. Effluent from the pretreatment facility is received at the plant separate from the municipal influent. The industrial flow is treated in an anaerobic contact process. The effluent from the industrial anaerobic digesters is proposed to be combined with the municipal wastewater after the grit removal and sedimentation tanks before the activated sludge process.

Solids from the municipal primary sedimentation basin and the combined final clarifiers will be anaerobically digested. Digested primary and activated solids will combine with the industrial separator solids for dewatering and cake storage prior to land application. Existing liquid sludge storage tanks will remain for flexibility to handle liquid sludge.

The main lift station bypass structure is capable of discharging untreated wastewater to the Cedar River. This bypass is locked and manually controlled.

Proposed Facility Flow Diagram



Significant industrial users (SIUs)

The Permittee has been delegated the authority to operate as the control authority under the General Pretreatment Regulations. The Permittee’s delegated pretreatment program was originally approved on August 13, 2012.

The Facility has six SIUs are listed in Table 1, all of which have a control mechanism associated with the Facility. None of the SIUs are subject to Categorical Standards.

Table 1: Austin Wastewater Treatment Facility’s (WWTF’s) SIUs

Name	Total Average Flow (mgd)	Flow from process wastewater (mgd)	Flow from non-process wastewater (MG/year)	Principal Products or raw materials used	Considered a SIU (Y/N)	Is there currently a control mechanism and/or local limits (Y/N)	Is the IU subject to Categorical Standards? (N/Y)
Hormel Foods Corporation	2	2		Hogs and Food materials	Y	Y	N
G&R Truck Wash	0.023	0.023		Water and Waste from Hog Transport	Y	Y	N
L.L. Parks Truck Wash	0.014	0.014		Water and Waste from Hog Transport	Y	Y	N
International Paper	0.006	0.006		Paper Products	Y	Y	N
SKB Austin Industrial Landfill			2.0 MG/year Landfill Leachate	Industrial Waste	Y	Y	N
SKB Lansing Demolition Landfill			3.9 MG/year Landfill Leachate	Demolition Waste	Y	Y	N

Recent compliance history

A Wastewater Offsite Desk Audit (DSA) was conducted in June 1, 2020. The DSA included a discussion with the Facility superintendent and a review of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and other required permit submittals for the period of July 1, 2018 through April 30, 2020. A DSA was conducted in lieu of an on-site Compliance Evaluation Inspection due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

- For the years 2017, 2018, 2019, part of 2020, the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) treated combined influent flows at 75% of the average wet weather design of the WWTP.
- As a result of the inspection the permittee received a Letter of Warning (LOW) which included violations for late submittals of supplemental reports (Phosphorus and Mercury Management Plans), effluent violations (three Dissolved Oxygen violations and one Total Suspended Solids violation), failure to monitor at the frequency required by the limits and monitoring table (missed sampling), and one late DMR submission (Industrial Stormwater station DMR).
- A Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued also as the result of a late annual chronic toxicity test report submission. The city of Austin WWTP submitted their annual chronic toxicity test results greater than 30 days late.
- Corrective actions for the LOW and NOV included submission of a procedure to ensure that all required monitoring of the permit is completed and done so at the required frequencies of the limits and monitoring table. The city of Austin WWTP also had to submit a letter that described procedures they put in place to submit timely supplemental reports (non-DMRs) and the annual chronic toxicity test battery results.
- The city of Austin WWTP submitted responses to the Letter of Warning and Notice of Violation letter on July 22, 2020, and the MPCA determined that the corrective actions contained in the LOW and NOV were complete.
- The MPCA issued a Completion of Corrective Actions letter to the city of Austin WWTP on July 27, 2020.

Table 2 below lists the recent monitoring history at the Facility, from the months of January through December, 2020. Where no number is present in the Limit column, there is no limit required and the Facility is only required to monitor for that parameter. Parameters such as Ammonia, CBOD₅ and Dissolved Oxygen have changing limits based on which months the samples are taken.

Table 2: Recent monitoring history

Parameter	Units	Limit	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
Bicarbonates	mg/L		169	102	99	125	54	159	103	119	129	45	117	146
CBOD ₅	kg/d	481						207	159	149	164			
CBOD ₅	kg/d	641	197	176	231									142
CBOD ₅	kg/d	801				190	200					175	171	
CBOD ₅	mg/L	15						6.3	6.8	7.2	7.9			
CBOD ₅	mg/L	20	8.7	8.3	8.3									8.5
CBOD ₅	mg/L	25				7.3	6.9					9.2	8.9	
CBOD ₅	kg/d	961						266	178	173	210			
CBOD ₅	kg/d	1,121	231	209	278									187
CBOD ₅	kg/d	1,281				217	261					235	226	
CBOD ₅	mg/L	30						7	7.7	8.3	10			
CBOD ₅	mg/L	35	9.7	9.3	9.3									10
CBOD ₅	mg/L	40				8.3	8.7					13	11	
CBOD ₅ % Removal	%	85	97.3	97.8	97.5	97.9	83.4	98.6	98.2	98.7	98.4	98.3	97.7	98.8
Calcium, Total	mg/L		67	75	72	74	81	70	68	74	67	70	69	69
Chloride, Total	mg/L		445	460	532	404	413	213	296	360	357	384	396	379
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	0.038												
Chlorine, Total Residual	mg/L	0.038				0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.05		
Fecal Coliform	#/100ml	200				16	23	25	68	94	169	45		
Flow	mgd		5.674	5.1152	6.9347	6.5331	7.1439	7.7668	5.8522	5.1089	5.1548	4.7612	4.7441	4.4843
Flow	mgd		6.466	5.9044	8.4334	7.756	11.385	10.8934	6.7223	5.7581	5.884	5.5651	5.9408	5.8622
Flow	Mgal		175.9	148.34	214.977	195.993	221.46	233.003	181.418	158.377	154.645	147.597	142.323	139.015
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	mg/L		270	294	283	291	309	273	68	290	274	276	274	274
Magnesium, Total	mg/L		25	26	25	26	26	24	24	26	26	25	25	25
Mercury, Dissolved	ng/L						0.721				0.636			
Mercury, Total	ng/L						2.3				2			
Nitrite Plus Nitrate, Total	mg/L		46	52	56	47	63	30	50	45	60	66	56	59
Ammonia, Total	kg/d	250						70	110	164	226			
Ammonia, Total	kg/d	352										211		

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Ammonia, Total	kg/d	384					95							
Ammonia, Total	kg/d	705											189	
Ammonia, Total	kg/d	929				105								
Ammonia, Total	kg/d	1,313	257	130	219									184
Ammonia, Total	mg/L	7.8						2.1	4.7	7.8	10.8			
Ammonia, Total	mg/L	11										11		
Ammonia, Total	mg/L	12					3.4						9.8	
Ammonia, Total	mg/L	29				4.1								
Ammonia, Total	mg/L	41	11	6.1	7.8									11
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total	mg/L		6.4	10	9.7	9.5	7.6	5.9	5.5	5.1	15	8.4	9.2	23
Nitrogen, Total	mg/L		52	62	66	56	71	36	55	50	76	75	65	82
Oxygen, Dissolved	mg/L	5				8.8	8.1					6.9	8.1	
Oxygen, Dissolved	mg/L	5.5	5.3	6	8.5									4.2
Oxygen, Dissolved	mg/L	6						7.4	6.5	6.3	5.9			
pH	SU	9	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.4	7.5	7.2	7.1	7	7.2	6.9	7.1	7.3
pH	SU	6	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.3	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.1	6.6	6.5
Phosphorus, Total	kg/d		92	76	130	69	80	82	81	96	109	92	115	70
Phosphorus, Total	mg/L		4	3.5	4.5	2.6	2.8	2.6	3.5	4.5	5.1	5.1	6.2	4.2
Potassium, Total	mg/L		38	41	45	35	39	23	29	29	42	40	43	45
Sodium, Total	mg/L		229	250	284	225	217	118	152	209	208	211	223	210
Solids, Total Dissolved	mg/L		1,240	1,150	1,420	1,100	1,120	710	870	1,220	1,080	1,120	1,040	1,050
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	kg/d	961	385	663	737	429	547	516	324	243	388	458	550	445
TSS	mg/L	30	17	32	27	17	18	16	14	12	19	24	29	27
TSS	kg/d	1,442	433	873	807	489	854	660	420	299	591	548	702	499
TSS	mg/L	45	20	42	28	19	22	18	18	14	29	28	36	29
TSS % Removal	%	85	80	70	83.2	86	83.4	82.7	90.6	93.5	90.6	88.4	83	89.5
TSS, grab (Mercury)	mg/L						29				19			
Specific Conductance	umhos/cm		1,840	2,200	2,150	1,840	1,880	1,270	1,540	1,810	2,070	2,110	1,940	1,980
Sulfate, Total	mg/L		52	39	51	43	54	46	51	54	59	61	47	48

Receiving water(s)

Use classification

The receiving water, the Cedar River, is a Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water.

Class 2 waters, aquatic life and recreation. Aquatic life and recreation includes all waters of the state that support or may support fish, other aquatic life, bathing, boating, or other recreational purposes and for which quality control is or may be necessary to protect aquatic or terrestrial life or their habitats or the public health, safety, or welfare.

More information on use classifications can be found in Minn. R. 7050.0200, Water Use Classifications for Waters of the State.

Impairments

Table 3: Current Impairments to receiving water

AUID or Lake ID#	Reach	Reach Description	Use Class	Impairment
07080201-514	Cedar River	Dobbins Cr to Turtle Cr	2B, 3C	Mercury
07080201-515	Cedar River	Turtle Cr to Rose Cr	2B, 3C	Mercury
07080201-501	Cedar River	Rose Cr to Woodbury Cr	2B, 3C	Mercury, Fecal Coliform
07080201-516	Cedar River	Woodbury Cr to MN/IA border	2B, 3C	Mercury

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The following Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies were used:

Lower Mississippi River Basin TMDL – approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 5, 2006.
Minnesota Statewide Mercury TMDL – approved by the EPA on March 27, 2007.

Existing permit effluent limits

The existing limits and monitoring requirements for Station SD002 are presented in Table 4 at the end of this section. Applicable water quality based limits (WQBEL), technology based effluent limits, and state discharge restriction limits are explained below.

Technology based effluent limits (TBELs)

The TSS, pH, and percent removal limits are technology based effluent limits developed for achieving secondary treatment standards. These limits are specified in 40 CFR § 133.102 and Minn. R. 7053.0215.

Water quality based limits

The residual chlorine, DO, CBOD₅, and Ammonia-Nitrogen limits are WQBELs. These effluent limits are based on the designated use classification of the receiving water and determined to be necessary to protect the use classification of the receiving water.

State discharge restrictions (SDRs)

The 200 #100mL calendar month geometric mean limit for Fecal Coliform is a SDR limit based on Minn. R. 7053.0215.

Table 4: Surface Discharge Station SD002 – Existing Limit and Monitoring Requirements

Parameter	Discharge limitations							Monitoring requirements		
	Quantity /Loading avg.	Quantity /Loading max.	Quantity /Loading units	Quality /Conc. min.	Quality /Conc. avg.	Quality /Conc. max.	Quality/ Conc. units	Frequency	Sample type	Effective period
Bicarbonates (HCO ₃)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
BOD, Carbonaceous 05 Day (20 Deg C)	481 calendar month average	961 maximum calendar week average	kilograms per day		15 calendar month average	30 maximum calendar week average	milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jun-Sep
BOD, Carbonaceous 05 Day (20 Deg C)	801 calendar month average	1281 maximum calendar week average	kilograms per day		25 calendar month average	40 maximum calendar week average	milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Apr-May, Oct-Nov
BOD, Carbonaceous 05 Day (20 Deg C)	641 calendar month average	1121 maximum calendar week average	kilograms per day		20 calendar month average	35 maximum calendar week average	milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Dec-Mar
BOD, Carbonaceous 05 Day (20 Deg C) Percent Removal				85 minimum calendar month average			percent	once per month	Calculation	Jan-Dec
Calcium, Total (as Ca)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Chloride, Total						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Chlorine, Total Residual						0.038 daily maximum	milligrams per liter	once per day	Grab	Jan-Dec
Fecal Coliform, MPN or Membrane Filter 44.5C					200 calendar month geometric mean		organisms per 100 milliliter	3 times per week	Grab	Apr-Oct
Flow		Monitor only. calendar month total	million gallons		Monitor only. calendar month average	Monitor only. calendar month maximum	million gallons per day	once per day	Measurement, Continuous	Jan-Dec
Hardness, Calcium & Magnesium, Calculated (as CaCO ₃)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Magnesium, Total (as Mg)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec

Parameter	Discharge limitations							Monitoring requirements		
	Quantity /Loading avg.	Quantity /Loading max.	Quantity /Loading units	Quality /Conc. min.	Quality /Conc. avg.	Quality /Conc. max.	Quality/ Conc. units	Frequency	Sample type	Effective period
Mercury, Dissolved (as Hg)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	nanograms per liter	once per month	Grab	May, Sep
Mercury, Total (as Hg)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	nanograms per liter	once per month	Grab	May, Sep
Nitrite Plus Nitrate, Total (as N)					Monitor only. calendar month average		milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Nitrogen, Ammonia, Total (as N)	250 calendar month average		kilograms per day		7.8 calendar month average		milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jun-Sep
Nitrogen, Ammonia, Total (as N)	705 calendar month average		kilograms per day		22 calendar month average		milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Nov
Nitrogen, Ammonia, Total (as N)	384 calendar month average		kilograms per day		12 calendar month average		milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	May
Nitrogen, Ammonia, Total (as N)	929 calendar month average		kilograms per day		29 calendar month average		milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Apr
Nitrogen, Ammonia, Total (as N)	1313 calendar month average		kilograms per day		41 calendar month average		milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Dec-Mar
Nitrogen, Ammonia, Total (as N)	352 calendar month average		kilograms per day		11 calendar month average		milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Oct
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl, Total					Monitor only. calendar month average		milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Nitrogen, Total (as N)					Monitor only. calendar month average		milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Oxygen, Dissolved				5.5 calendar month minimum			milligrams per liter	once per day	Grab	Dec-Mar
Oxygen, Dissolved				5.0 calendar month minimum			milligrams per liter	once per day	Grab	Apr-May, Oct-Nov
Oxygen, Dissolved				6.0 calendar month minimum			milligrams per liter	once per day	Grab	Jun-Sep
pH				6.0 calendar month minimum		9.0 calendar month maximum	standard units	once per day	Grab	Jan-Dec
Phosphorus, Total (as P)	Monitor only. calendar month average		kilograms per day		Monitor only. calendar month average		milligrams per liter	once per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec

Parameter	Discharge limitations							Monitoring requirements		
	Quantity /Loading avg.	Quantity /Loading max.	Quantity /Loading units	Quality /Conc. min.	Quality /Conc. avg.	Quality /Conc. max.	Quality/ Conc. units	Frequency	Sample type	Effective period
Potassium, Total (as K)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Sodium, Total (as Na)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Solids, Total Dissolved (TDS)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Solids, Total Suspended (TSS)	961 calendar month average	1442 maximum calendar week average	kilograms per day		30 calendar month average	45 maximum calendar week average	milligrams per liter	3 times per week	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec
Solids, Total Suspended (TSS) Percent Removal				85 minimum calendar month average			percent	once per month	Calculation	Jan-Dec
Solids, Total Suspended (TSS), grab (Mercury)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	Grab	May, Sep
Specific Conductance						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	micromhos per cm	once per month	Measurement	Jan-Dec
Sulfate, Total (as SO4)						Monitor only. calendar month maximum	milligrams per liter	once per month	24-Hour Flow Composite	Jan-Dec

Proposed changes to Limit and Monitoring Requirements – Open for Public Comment

A State Discharge Restriction limit of 1.0 mg/L total Phosphorus, applicable May through September is being proposed for the draft permit. This requirement affects the surface discharge station, SD002. There are no other changes proposed for the limits and monitoring requirements in the permit.

This limit is applicable under Minn. R. 7053.0255, Subp. 3, due to the Facility's planned construction project which includes a proposed expansion of its discharge. The limit is seasonal based on Minn. R. 7053.0255, Subp. 4C for facilities discharging to the Cedar River that use chemical phosphorus treatment. This is the proposed method of treatment for the upgraded facility.

The Phosphorus limit and monitoring requirements are coded in phases in the draft permit. Monitor-only for the calendar month average in mg/L is indicated as Phase 1, which is applicable at permit issuance and extends until 90 days after the facility initiates operation of its upgraded facility. At that time, the 1.0 mg/L limit will become effective, which is indicated as Phase 2.

Additional requirements

Pollutant Minimization Plans

The Facility has submitted its required Phosphorus Management Plan and Mercury Management Plan as required in the currently effective permit. These Plans will not be required to be submitted again as part of this modification, and therefore these requirements have been removed from the draft permit.

Nitrogen monitoring requirements

Nitrogen is a pollutant that can negatively impact the quality of Minnesota's water resources, including water used for drinking. Studies have shown that nitrogen in lakes and streams have a toxic effect on aquatic life such as fish. Like phosphorus, nitrogen is a nutrient that promotes algae and aquatic plant growth often resulting in decreased water clarity and oxygen levels. In September 2014, the MPCA completed the final draft of the Statewide Nutrient Reduction Strategy (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/nutrient-reduction-strategy>) which identifies goals and milestones for nitrogen reductions for both point and nonpoint nitrogen sources within Minnesota. To gain a better understanding of the current nitrogen concentrations and loadings received by and discharged from the Facility, additional effluent nitrogen monitoring has been added to the permit. This monitoring has been added in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 115.03. Refer to the Limits and Monitoring section of the draft permit for the specific influent and effluent monitoring and frequency.

Salty parameter monitoring

In recent years, the MPCA staff became aware of issues associated with "salty discharges" from industrial and municipal discharges. As a result, the MPCA staff began to request additional monitoring for these facilities and also began assigning effluent limits to facilities that have data showing a reasonable potential to exceed a water quality standard.

All industrial and municipal facilities with continuous, periodic/seasonal, or intermittent waste flows, where the receiving water stream flow to effluent design flow dilution ratio under low flow conditions is less than 5:1, will be required to monitor effluent for the following parameters: bicarbonates, calcium, calcium and magnesium hardness as CaCO₃, chloride, magnesium, potassium, specific conductance, sodium, sulfates as SO₄, and total dissolved solids. These parameters shall be sampled once a month.

Industrial stormwater

On April 5, 2015, the Industrial Stormwater General Permit (MNR050000) was reissued. This permit addresses stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity for facilities that discharge stormwater to waters of the state, including Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. The General Permit also addresses stormwater discharges

associated with industrial activities at facilities that provide onsite infiltration of industrial stormwater discharges associated with the facility.

For both industrial and municipal wastewater treatment facilities, in lieu of obtaining coverage under both the General Permit and the individual NPDES permit, the MPCA has created the necessary industrial stormwater boilerplate language and limits and monitoring so that coverage under the NPDES permit alone will cover both permits. Austin WWTF has elected to combine their Industrial Stormwater (ISW) permit coverage with their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) wastewater permit coverage at this reissuance.

An additional discharge station (SD 003) has been created in this permit with specific limits and monitoring requirements for stormwater monitoring purposes. Sampling and monitoring at this stormwater SD station is required on a quarterly basis through the life of the permit with the results averaged once per year on the December Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR). The draft permit also contains an Industrial Stormwater Sector T: Treatment Works chapter. References are made to an Inspection Report and Annual Report that can be found on the MPCA's website. Finally, there is a Benchmark Monitoring Factsheet on the website that must be used to ensure compliance with the limits and monitoring requirements for the facility. The documents can be found at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/r4ard68>.

Biosolids

This draft permit authorizes the Permittee to store and land applies domestic wastewater treatment biosolids in accordance with the provisions in this draft permit and Minn. R. ch. 7041. The draft permit requires biosolids to be treated to meet specific standards, and specifies monitoring, recordkeeping, reporting, and general requirements for biosolids that are applied to the land. Unless they are exceptional quality biosolids, sites to which biosolids are applied are approved by the MPCA by the procedures found in Minn. R. 7041.0800.

Variances

There are no variances in the draft permit.

Total facility requirements

All NPDES/SDS Permits issued by the state of Minnesota contain certain conditions that remain the same, regardless of the size, location, or type of discharge. The standard conditions satisfy the requirements are outlined in 40 CFR § 122.41, Minn. R. 7001.0150, and 7001.1090. These conditions are listed in the Total Facility Requirements chapter of the NPDES/SDS Permit. These requirements cover a wide range of areas, including recordkeeping, sampling, equipment calibration, equipment maintenance, reporting, facility upsets, bypasses, solids handling, changes in operation, facility inspections, and permit modification and reissuance.

Antidegradation and anti-backsliding

Changes to the Facility may result in an increase in pollutant loading to surface waters or other causes of degradation to surface waters. If a change to the Facility will result in a net increase in pollutant loading or other causes of degradation that exceed the maximum loading authorized through conditions specified in the existing permit, the changes to the facility are subject to antidegradation requirements found in Minn. R. 7050 to 7050.0335.

The facility has agreed to a mass limit cap at its current design flows and loadings, therefore antidegradation review was not necessary for this construction project.

This permit also complies with Minn. R. 7053.0275 regarding anti-backsliding.

Any point source discharger of sewage, industrial, or other wastes for which a NPDES permit has been issued by the agency that contains effluent limits more stringent than those that would be established by Minn. R. 7053.0215 to 7053.0265 shall continue to meet the effluent limits established by the permit, unless the Permittee establishes that less

stringent effluent limits are allowable pursuant to federal law, under section 402(o) of the Clean Water Act, United States Code, title 33, section 1342.