

General information

Public comment period begins: March 7, 2018

Public comment period ends: 4:30 p.m. on April 5, 2018

Current permit issued: January 18, 2012

Current permit expiration date: January 18, 2017*

* The Permittee may continue to operate this facility after the expiration date of the permit, per the provision under Minn. R. 7007.0450, subp. 3. (Title V Reissuance Application was received July 5, 2016).

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this permit.

Name and address of Permittee:

Hibbing, city of
PO Box 249
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746

Co-permittee:

Laurentian Energy Authority LLC
PO Box 1048
Virginia, Minnesota 55792

Facility name and location:

Hibbing Public Utilities Commission
1902 6th Ave E
Hibbing, MN 55746
St. Louis County
T057N, R20W, Section 007

MPCA contact person:

Andrea Walkush
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd N
Phone: 651-757-2484
Email: andrea.walkush@state.mn.us

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
1-844-828-0942

A draft permit and permit application are available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices> or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft permit upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and time identified above.

Watershed: NA

Receiving water: NA

The permit action is for modification and operation of the facility. The permit action is the reissuance of the Part 70 Operating Permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice.

A summary of the Potential to Emit (PTE) and Emissions Increase in tons per year is as follows:

Pollutant	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO _x	VOCs	CO	CO _{2e}	Lead
Total Facility PTE	1,849	310	204	2,705	2,109	33.2	1,428	890,763	0.11
Emissions Increase from modified emission units	3.45	3.45	3.70	3.45	20.70	2.35	22.75	28,910	0.004

PM = Particulate Matter

PM_{2.5} = PM, 2.5 microns and smaller

NO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

CO = Carbon Monoxide

PM₁₀ = PM, 10 microns and smaller

SO₂ = Sulfur Dioxide

VOCs = Volatile Organic Compounds

CO_{2e} = Carbon Dioxide Equivalents as defined in Minn. R. 7007.0100

The Permittee is not required to submit a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

Description of permitted facility and modification

Hibbing Public Utilities Commission (HPUC) operates a co-generation facility for the city of Hibbing. The facility generates electricity that is sold to the grid and steam for space heating of businesses, schools, and residences. The HPUC power plant is located in downtown Hibbing and was originally constructed in 1919. The main contributing sources of air emissions at HPUC are three coal/natural gas-fired boilers (Boiler No. 1A (EQUI 1), Boiler No. 2A (EQUI 2), and Boiler No. 3A (EQUI 3)), a wood-fired boiler (EQUI 7), an ash-handling system (EQUI 4), and two natural gas-fired boilers located at the nearby Hibbing High School that are connected

to the HPUC steam distribution system (High School Boiler No. 1 (EQUI 5), High School Boiler No. 2 (EQUI 6)). Other air emission sources at the facility include a railcar/truck coal unloading station and an ash transfer system. The main pollutants of concern are Nitrogen Oxides (NOX), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Particulate Matter (PM), Particulate Matter less than 10 microns (PM10), Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5), and Sulfur Dioxide (SO2). Control equipment to reduce HPUC emissions include fabric filters, electrostatic precipitators, a selective noncatalytic reduction for NOX, and a multiple cyclone.

This permit action is a reissuance of the Title V total facility operating permit. This permit also includes a major amendment to modify the hours of operation limit on EQUI 7. The hours of operation limit was included in permit 13700027-007 to avoid an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for CO. After the limit was incorporated into the permit, HPUC installed a natural gas auxiliary burner on EQUI 7 in permit 13700027-009. EQUI 7 CO emissions are continuously monitored (EQUI 21) and EQUI 7 operating efficiency improved and CO emissions have decreased from the natural gas burner installation. To allow HPUC to increase hours of operation for EQUI 7 and avoid an EAW, the HPUC hours of operation limit is replaced with an emission cap (limit).

The preliminary determination to reissue this Air permit is tentative.

Procedure for public participation

As stated in Minn. R. chs. 7000 and 7001, there are three formal procedures for public participation in the MPCA's consideration of this matter. Interested persons may:

- (1) Submit written comments on the draft permit.
- (2) Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
- (3) Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Submitting written comments

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or email, you must state:

- (1) Your interest in the permit application or the draft permit.
- (2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft permit you believe should be changed.
- (3) The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the MPCA to investigate the merits of the position.

Public informational meeting

A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above and in addition include a statement of the reasons the person desires the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and the issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.

Contested Case Hearing

A contested case hearing is a formal proceeding before an administrative law judge empowered to advise the MPCA regarding issues of fact. As described in Minn. R. 7000.1800, persons who submit petitions for a contested case hearing must also state the issues they propose to address in a contested case hearing, the specific relief requested or resolution of the matter, and the reasons (which may be in the form of proposed findings) supporting an MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing. Failure to comply with these rules exactly may result in a denial of the request. To the extent known, the petitioner may also submit a list of prospective witnesses to be called at a hearing, a proposed list of publications, references, or studies to be introduced at a hearing and the approximate time required for the petitioner to present the matter at a hearing. The decision whether to hold a contested case hearing will be made under Minn. R. 7000.1900.