

General information

Public comment period begins: October 9 2020

Public comment period ends: November 9, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)

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

Name and address of Permittee:

Prairie River Minerals LLC
 415 NW 8th Ave Ste B
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2359

Facility name and location:

Prairie River Minerals LLC -
 Demonstration Plant
 29013 County Highway 61
 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
 Itasca County

MPCA contact person:

Benjamin Wenkel
 Industrial Division
 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 520 Lafayette Rd. N
 St. Paul, MN 55155-4194
 Phone: 651-757-2603
 Email: benjamin.wenkel@state.mn.us

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

A draft permit is available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices>. Permit application and supporting documentation are available for review at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/regulations/prairie-river-minerals>. Additional materials relating to the issuance of this permit are available for inspection. Please call the listed MPCA contact person between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday to arrange for this. 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.

Description of Prairie River Minerals LLC - Demonstration Plant

Prairie River Minerals LLC intends to construct and operate a new facility near Coleraine, Minnesota, which will produce approximately 156,000 metric tons per year of high-grade iron ore from low-grade legacy waste rock stockpiles: the Jessie Mine Stockpile, Jessie #2 Mine Stockpile, and the Buckeye Mine Stockpile. The material will be crushed and processed using dense medium separation technology which includes a series of conveyor belts, thickeners, and the use of ferrosilicon. Two products will be produced and sent to the market: lump ore and sinter feed.

The main pollutants of concern are particulate matter (PM), PM less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM₁₀), and PM less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{2.5}). Prairie River Minerals LLC will utilize control strategies to reduce emissions from its paved and unpaved roads along with the long-term material storage areas and stockpiles. It will also operate water sprays on the material processing equipment at two locations at the facility to control particulate emissions. The Prairie River Minerals LLC facility is a synthetic minor source under Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Part 70 and it is an area source for hazardous air pollutants under 40 CFR pt. 63.

The permit action is for construction and operation of the facility. The permit action is a State Permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice.

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

Pollutant	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO _x	VOC	CO	CO _{2e}	Lead
Total Facility PTE	54.9	20.8	11.6	0.0038	2.72	0.209	1.57	2,670	0.0011

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

VOC = 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.

The preliminary determination to issue 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.