

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** July 21, 2021

**Public comment period ends:** August 20, 2021 (4:30 p.m.)

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

**Name and address of Permittee:**

West Fraser Bemidji  
4409 Northwood Rd NW  
Solway, MN 56678-4322

**Facility name and location:**

West Fraser Bemidji  
4409 Northwood Road Northwest  
Solway, MN 56678-4322  
Beltrami County

**MPCA contact person:**

Megumi Muramoto-Mathieu  
Industrial Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Rd N  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
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Email: megumi.muramoto-  
mathieu@state.mn.us

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

A draft permit and supporting documentation are available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices>. 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 West Fraser Bemidji

West Fraser Bemidji owns and operates an Oriented Strandboard (OSB) manufacturing facility in Beltrami County, Minnesota. The facility is located approximately 10 miles west of Bemidji, Minnesota. To produce OSB, logs are sliced into small strands, which are then dried, blended with a phenol-formaldehyde resin and wax mixture, formed into layers, and finally pressed into wood panels. The equipment used for the process consists of two rotary drum dryers with two wood-fired Lamb burners, one flatline conveyor dryer with a Wellons wood-fired burner, one multi-opening board press, two Konus wood-fired burners which are the heat source for the press, and various handling, finishing, and forming processes.

The pollution control equipment and main pollutants of concern from the emission units at the Facility are as follows: the two rotary dryers and Lamb burners are sources of PM, PM <10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>), PM < 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>. The dryers/Lamb burners are controlled by Quadcones, electrified filter beds (EFB), and regenerative thermal oxidizers (RTO), which control PM/PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub>, VOC, and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. The conveyor dryer and Wellons burner are sources of PM/PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub>, VOC, HAPs, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>. The Wellons burner is controlled by an electrostatic precipitator (ESP) which controls PM/PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions. The conveyor dryer is controlled by cyclones and baghouses and may also use the Wellons burner as a control device. The cyclone controls PM/PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions while the Wellons burner may be used to control VOC and HAPs from Zone 1 of the conveyor dryer. The board press is controlled by a biofilter, which controls methanol and formaldehyde emissions. The Konus burners are sources of PM/PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub>, VOC, HAPs, CO, and NO<sub>x</sub>. Each Konus burner is controlled by multiclones and an EFB. The in-plant particulate sources are generally controlled by a series of cyclones and baghouses. There are also bark piles and fuel piles as fugitive particulate sources.

The preliminary determination to reissue and modify this Air permit is tentative.

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.

This permit action incorporates a major amendment for a production limit increase at the conveyor dryer system (COMG 5) from 35,000 pounds of oven-dried strands (ODS) to 48,000 ODS. Also, this permit action includes a number of reopenings based on the results of performance testing since the previous permit. The reopenings modify operating parameters for electrified filter beds (TREAs 5, 14, 15, and 27) and for the biofilter (TREA 1).

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

Pollutant	PM	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	VOCs	CO	CO <sub>2e</sub>	All HAP	Single HAP
Total Facility PTE	261	253	216	33.0	260	297	362	34,383	22.63	9.12
Emissions Increase from modified emission units	4.49	4.49	4.49	1.28	22.59	20.54	7.10	8,968	2.23E-04	2.23E-04

PM = Particulate Matter

PM<sub>2.5</sub> = PM, 2.5 microns and smaller

NO<sub>x</sub> = Nitrogen Oxides

CO = Carbon Monoxide

PM<sub>10</sub> = PM, 10 microns and smaller

SO<sub>2</sub> = Sulfur Dioxide

VOCs = Volatile Organic Compounds

CO<sub>2e</sub> = Carbon Dioxide Equivalents as defined in Minn. R. 7007.0100

HAP = Hazardous Air Pollutant

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

## 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.