

General information

Public comment period begins: August 14, 2020
Public comment period ends: September 14, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: October 11, 2007
Current permit expiration date: September 1, 2012

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this permit for a term of approximately five years.

Name and address of Permittee:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:
Mesabi Metallica PO Box 25 Nashwauk, MN 55769-0025	Mesabi Metallica Co. LLC 17113 County Rd 58 Nashwauk, MN 55769 Itasca County	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/air-quality-permit-mesabi-metallica>. 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.

Watershed: NA

Receiving water: NA

Description of permitted facility

The permit action is for construction, 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.

Mesabi Metallica Co. LLC (MMCL) — formerly known as Minnesota Steel Industries and more recently known as Essar Steel Minnesota, LLC — is currently constructing a taconite mine and taconite pellet production facility with integrated direct reduced iron and steel production facilities near Nashwauk, Minnesota on the site of the former Butler Taconite Mining Company facility. MMCL began construction on the facility in 2009. Construction is not yet complete and no part of the facility is currently operating. Once operational, MMCL will begin mining operations in newly created Pit 6 and will restart mining in Pit 5 once dewatering is complete.

The MMCL facility is a major source under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program for particulate matter (PM), PM less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM₁₀), PM less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM_{2.5}), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), ozone, lead, fluorides, sulfuric acid mist, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The MMCL facility is also a major source under the Part 70 program and a major source of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs).

This permit action incorporates a major amendment to add and modify several emission units and fugitive sources located at the pellet plant to update and refine Mesabi Metallica's design and operation. The modifications do not include any change — increase or decrease — in the amount of pellets that Mesabi Metallica is allowed to annually produce. The draft permit also incorporates the addition of additive grinding operations to produce crushed rock on-site. MMCL will receive limestone and dolomite shipments by rail and will crush and dry the material to be used in the pelletizing operation. The draft permit also incorporates an updated Best Available Control Technology review for the entire pellet plant and tightens the emission limits for the new and modified emission units. The modifications included as part of this permit action are a major modification under PSD for PM, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} emissions. The increment consumed by the modifications is as follows:

- 24-hour PM₁₀: 28.27 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³)
- Annual PM₁₀: 2.89 µg/m³
- 24-hour PM_{2.5}: 8.97 µg/m³
- Annual PM_{2.5}: 2.82 µg/m³

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	VOC	CO	CO _{2e}	Lead
Total Facility PTE	3,387	1,814	718	468	1,014	175	2,984	2,015,762	1.05
Emissions Increase from new and modified emission units	871	307	83.5	0.0875	32.5	2.43	21.8	15,216	0.123

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 has not submitted a pollution prevention progress report pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 115D.08.

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.