

General information

Public comment period begins: July 8, 2021
Public comment period ends: August 9, 2021 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: April 24, 2015
Current permit expiration date: April 24, 2020

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 September 23, 2019).

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:

Northern States Power a MN Corp
dba Xcel
414 Nicollet Mall MP 7B
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Facility name and location:

Xcel Energy - High Bridge Combined
Cycle Plant
155 Randolph Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3756
Ramsey County
T028N, R23W, Section 012

MPCA contact person:

Robert Little
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155
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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 by appointment at any MPCA office (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-offices>) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. 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 Xcel Energy – High Bridge Combined Cycle Plant

Xcel Energy - High Bridge (Xcel) is a major Part 70 source that operates an electric generating plant. The plant is composed of two identical natural gas-fired combined cycle turbines with duct burners, an auxiliary boiler, a fire pump, an emergency generator, and five make-up air units. Xcel also has an abrasive blasting cabinet, space heaters, a parts washer, and miscellaneous welding activities that are considered insignificant activities.

Electric power is generated by a mechanically-driven generator for each combustion turbine, and a single steam turbine generator where steam from the heat recovery steam generator for each combined cycle turbine is routed to.

The main pollutants of concern are nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOC), formaldehyde, total hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), and carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2e}). Xcel uses continuous emissions monitoring systems (CEMS) to monitor NO_x and CO emissions from the turbines and duct burners. The turbines are equipped with low-NO_x burners and NO_x emissions are controlled by selective catalytic reduction (SCR).

The permit action is for modification and operation of the facility. The permit action has a major amendment in addition to the reissuance of the Part 70 operating permit; therefore, the draft permit has been placed on public notice.

The major amendment is to modify what is defined as normal operation, startup, and shutdown for the combustion turbines under COMG 1. This is being done to increase the operational flexibility of the turbines as the facility determined they would be able to operate at lower loads while maintaining compliance with all existing limits due to new software technology. Physical hardware changes are not required. This required modifying Best Available Control Technology (BACT) requirements that defined normal operation as operation over 75% load. The new definition of normal operation will now begin once there has been 15 minutes of continuous compliance with the normal operating NO_x and CO emission limits under COMG 1, but no later than 15 minutes after a turbine reaches 75% load. All other remaining operating time is now considered startup or shutdown (SUSD).

Additional changes include a new annual 12-month rolling sum tonnage limit for CO to prevent the modification from becoming major under New Source Review. Changing CO and VOC BACT parts per million (ppm) emission limits from 3-hour block averages to 3-hour rolling averages.

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

Pollutant	PM	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	NO _x	VOCs	CO	CO ₂ e	Lead
Total Facility PTE	81.8	81.8	81.1	11.7	245	306	586	2,397,174	0.00007
Projected Emissions Increase from modified emission units	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.91	15.8	23.4	90	379,564	0.0007

PM = Particulate Matter

PM_{2.5} = PM, 2.5 microns and smaller

NO_x = Nitrogen Oxides

PM₁₀ = PM, 10 microns and smaller

SO₂ = Sulfur Dioxide

VOCs = Volatile Organic Compounds

The Permittee is not required to submit 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.