

General information

Public comment period begins: July 30, 2021
Public comment period ends: August 30, 2021(4:30 p.m.)

Current permit issued: October 1 2014
Current permit expiration date: September 30, 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:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:
Hope Creamery 9043 SW 37th Ave Hope, Minnesota 56046-2003	Hope Creamery 9043 SW 37th Ave Hope, MN 56046-2003 Steele County T106N, R20W, Section 019	Stephanie Handeland Industrial Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2405 Email: stephanie.handeland@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>. 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.

Watershed: Cannon River

Receiving water: Straight River - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water;

Description of permitted facility:

The primary activity at this facility is the production of butter from purchased cream. The plant operates two to three days per week, approximately every other week. The facility produces an average of 250,000 pounds and a maximum of 300,000 pounds of butter per year.

The facility discharges process wastewater, wash water and solids (industrial by-products) associated with butter production to a land application system; and non-contact cooling water to the Straight River. Process wastewater from the facility consists of boiler blow-down, compressor water, and equipment and product wash water (including floor drains), all of which is discharged to the land application site. The Permittee also has the ability to direct a portion of the non-contact cooling water flow to the ridge and furrow system to aid in flow distribution. The treatment system consists of a grinder pump, a proposed grease and solids collection system, 3,500 feet of 1 ½ inch force main, and a 1.2-acre ridge and furrow land application site divided up into two 0.6-acre cells. The ridge and furrow system is planted with reed canary grass. Process wastewater is discharged to the site year-round at an average flow rate of approximately 2,000 gallons per day (gpd) and a maximum rate of 15,000 gpd. Typically, one cutting of the grass crop is removed annually.

The water source for cleaning and the non-contact cooling water is an on-site well. No chemical additives are added to the non-contact cooling water. Non-contact cooling water from the pasteurizing units is discharged to a tile line that discharges to the storm sewer which flows approximately one (1) mile to the Straight River (Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 Water) at an average flow rate of 2,200 gpd and a maximum flow rate of 15,000 gpd. Peak flows tend to occur during the summer months when more water is required to cool the pasteurized cream.

The following updates were made to the draft permit:

- Updated facility description.
- Updated flow measurement/reporting requirements for ridge and furrow system (calculate combined flow if NCC & process WW). Updated limits and monitoring requirements.
- Compliance schedule for ridge and furrow system.
- Updated Operation and Maintenance Plan requirements
- Updated IBP reporting requirements (volume applied to ridge and furrow system)
- Added notification requirements for the proposed grease and solids collection system.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Wastewater 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.