Public Notice of intent to reissue

Wastewater
Permit MN0020125

General information

Public comment period begins: September 4, 2020
Public comment period ends: November 3, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: March 27, 2015
Current permit expiration date: February 29, 2020

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:
City of Gilbert
PO Box 548
Gilbert, Minnesota 55741-0548
Gilbert Wastewater Treatment Plant
202 Dakota Ave E.
Gilbert, MN 55741
T058N, R17W, Section 023
Stephanie Lyons
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave S
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-302-6643
Email: stephanie.lyons@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: St. Louis River
Receiving water: Lost - Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water; Unassessed - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of Gilbert Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Gilbert WWTP (Facility) is located at 202 Dakota Ave E, Gilbert, Minnesota 55741, St. Louis County.

The Facility has a continuous discharge from SD 002 to an unnamed ditch (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water) and then to Lost Lake, which is part of the Lake Superior Basin. This is a Class B facility.

The Facility is designed to treat:
An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 0.691 million gallons per day (MGD)
An average dry weather (ADW) flow of 0.286 million gallons per day (MGD)
A peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 1.2 million gallons per day (MGD)
5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD5) of 84 milligrams per liter (mg/L)

The Facility consists of an equalization tank (EQ), a 1.9 million gallon equalization basin, a fine screen, gravity grit chamber, a bar screen, an additional fine screen, two primary clarifiers, a three-basin membrane bioreactor (MBR) system that uses five cassettes per basin, chemical addition for pH adjustment and phosphorus removal, and a chlorine contact basin with dechlorination. Grit from the grit chamber only will be placed in a sand drying bed designed for dewatering of the grit material.

Biosolids at the Facility are treated by four aerated sludge tanks.

One manually controlled overflow point capable of discharging untreated wastewater is located at the flow equalization tank. The proposed EQ basin is designed with one bypass point and shall remain manually controlled and locked.
Effluent Limits
In the June 26, 2000 permit issuance, the City of Gilbert accepted a freeze in their total suspended solids (TSS) mass load limit. The City of Gilbert increased their AWW flow from 0.500 mgd to 0.691 mgd. This freeze was chosen instead of a mercury nondegradation analysis. The calendar month average for the Facility is 56.7 kilograms TSS per day with a maximum calendar week average of 85 kilograms TSS per day.

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.