

General information

Public comment period begins: April 2, 2021
Public comment period ends: June 1, 2021 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: April 1, 2018
Current permit expiration date: March 31, 2023

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify this permit for the remainder of the permit term.

Name and address of Permittee:

City of Ely
209 East Chapman Street
Ely, MN 55731

Facility name and location:

Ely Wastewater Treatment Facility
47 Chandler Road North
Ely, MN 55731
St. Louis County
T063N, R12W, Section 028

MPCA contact person:

Stephanie Lyons
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Avenue South
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-302-6643
Email: stephanie.lyons@state.mn.us

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

A draft permit and fact sheet 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.

Watershed: Rainy River - Headwaters

Receiving water: Shagawa Lake - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of Ely Wastewater Treatment Facility

The Ely Wastewater Treatment Facility (facility) is located at 47 Chandler Road North, Ely, Minnesota 55731, St. Louis County.

Existing Facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge from SD001 to Shagawa Lake (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water). This is a Class A facility.

The facility consists of a continuous belt mechanical screen, grit cyclone and classifier, a scum/grease removal basin, an in-plant pump station, an activated sludge and Bio-Phosphorus removal unit with chemical addition of alum, two secondary clarifiers, chlorine disinfection, a 9 cell up-flow sand filter, and sulfur dioxide addition for dechlorination. Biosolids from the Facility are thickened with a dissolved air flotation thickener and stabilized prior to land application. The Facility has the capability of storing biosolids as needed.

The facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD);
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 120 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Proposed Facility

Plans submitted indicate that the facility will be rehabilitated for advanced mercury treatment. Design flow at the facility will not be changed.

Construction at the facility will consist of replacement of the up-flow sand filters with two cloth disc filters, removal and replacement of the continuous belt mechanical screen, removal and replacement of the grit cyclone and classifier, removal of the dissolved air flotation thickener, and construction of a new 260,000 gallon sludge storage tank.

The facility will be designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD);
- An average dry weather (ADW) flow of 0.74 MGD;
- A peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 5.8 MGD;
- Five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 75 milligrams per liter (mg/L);
- Total suspended solids (TSS) of 85 mg/L;
- Total phosphorus (TP) of 1.6 mg/L;
- Total nitrogen (TN) of 15 mg/L.

The preliminary determination to modify 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.