

General information

Public comment period begins: January 25, 2018

Public comment period ends: 4:30 p.m. on March 26, 2018

Current permit issued: June 9, 2010

Current permit expiration date: May 31, 2015

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:

Ely City of
209 E Chapman St
Ely, Minnesota 55731

Facility name and location:

Ely WWTP
47 Chandler Rd N
Ely, MN 55731
St. Louis County
T063N, R12W, Section 028

MPCA contact person:

Stephanie Baublitz
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave S Duluth, MN 55812
Phone: 218-302-6643
Email: stephanie.baublitz@state.mn.us

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or
1-844-828-0942

A draft permit and fact sheet are available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices> or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. 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 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of Facility

The Ely Wastewater Treatment Facility (Facility) is located in the SE 1/4 of Section 28, Township 63 North, Range 12 West, Ely, St. Louis County, Minnesota. This is a Class A Facility.

The Facility's influent flows into a preliminary treatment building that consists of a rotary fine screen followed by grit removal with flow metering and flow splitting. Grit and debris taken out of the system is collected and hauled to a landfill. Influent then flows to a scum/grease removal basin and then to an in-plant pump station. Wastewater is then pumped to an activated sludge tank that is also a Bio-Phosphorus removal unit where phosphorus is removed via chemical addition. The wastewater flows through two secondary clarifiers and on to disinfection. The disinfected water moves on to a series of up-flow sand filters and leaves the Facility to be discharged at the permitted location. Biosolids from the Facility are thickened with a dissolved air flotation thickener and stabilized prior to disposal. The Facility has the capability of storing biosolids as needed.

This Facility has a continuous discharge (Station SD001) to Shagawa Lake (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water) and is designed to treat domestic strength waste at an average wet weather flow rate of 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The average influent 5-day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand strength is approximately 120 milligrams 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.