Public Notice of intent to modify
Wastewater Permit MN0020940

General information

Public comment period begins:       June 5, 2020
Public comment period ends:       August 3, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued:       May 1, 2019
Current permit expiration date:       April 30, 2024

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to modify this permit.

Name and address of Permittee:       Facility name and location:       MPCA contact person:
City of Watertown
PO Box 279
Watertown, MN 55388-0279

Facility name and location:       Watertown Wastewater Treatment Facility
700 Lewis Ave NW
Watertown, MN 55388
Carver County
T117N, R25W, Section 4

Amanda Wilkens
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
7678 College Road, Suite 105
Baxter, MN 56425
Phone: 218-316-3881
Email: amanda.wilkens@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 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:       South Fork Crow River
Receiving water:       Crow River, South Fork - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The application and plans indicate that the existing Facility consists of a lift station, mechanical bar screen, flow equalization basin, three extended aeration basins, two final clarifiers, two traveling bridge sand filters, chlorine disinfection, anaerobic digester, a sludge storage tank, and two solids storage bags (geotubes). This is a Class B facility.

The Facility is designed to treat an average wet-weather flow of 1,262,000 gallons per day (gpd), an average dry-weather flow of 362,000 gpd, and a five-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) strength of 577 pounds per day. The discharge is continuous to the South Fork of the Crow River (Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water).

There are no known designed bypass or overflow points in the treatment system.

The proposed project is a comprehensive rehabilitation of the existing Facility and will replace, upgrade, or expand most of its treatment processes. Additions and changes include a septage receiving station, screening and grit removal, anaerobic and anoxic basins for biological nutrient removal, expanded aeration basins, tanks and pumps for chemical phosphorus removal, replacement of the secondary clarifier mechanisms, an additional final clarifier, effluent disc filters, new WAS/RAS pumps, sludge thickening, aerobic digestion, liquid biosolids storage and loadout facilities, SCADA system, and other miscellaneous and office improvements.

The proposed Facility is designed to treat an average wet-weather flow of 1,262,000 gpd, an average dry-weather flow of 600,000 gpd, and a BOD5 load of 1,224 pounds per day. The proposed Facility will be a Class A facility.

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.