

General information

Public comment period begins: April 16, 2021
Public comment period ends: June 16, 2021 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: October 10, 2011
Current permit expiration date: April 30, 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:

City of Fairmont
100 Downtown Plaza
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031-1709

Facility name and location:

Fairmont Wastewater Treatment Plant
301 Margaret Street
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031
Martin County
T102N, R30W, Section 005

MPCA contact person:

Marcell Mikkelson
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: 651-757-2134
Email: marcell.mikkelson@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>. 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: Blue Earth River

Receiving water: Center Creek - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

This Facility has a continuous discharge (SD001) to Center Creek (Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water) and then to the Blue Earth River. This is a Class A facility.

The existing facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather design (AWWD) flow of 3.9 million gallons per day (MGD)
- An average annual design flow of 2.35 million gallons per day (MGD)
- A maximum daily (MD) flow of 6.0 million gallons per day (MGD)
- a peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 9.4 million gallons per day (MGD)
- 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD5) of 250 milligrams per liter (mg/L), based on average annual flow

The application and plans indicate that the Facility consists of two mechanical bar screens, two grit chambers, two primary clarifiers, three activated sludge aeration basins, four secondary clarifiers, and Ultraviolet light disinfection. Biosolids treatment consists of two primary digesters, a sludge storage tank, a belt filter press, and a storage building for dried Class A biosolids. In the event that the Facility does not meet the requirements for Class A biosolids, the Permittee shall be required to meet other applicable provisions in this permit for land application of Class B biosolids.

The Permittee is proposing site work and piping improvements, new screens and grit pumps, new dewatering and dryer equipment, new expanded solids storage and a new Ultraviolet light disinfection building along with improvements.

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.