

General information

Public comment period begins: April 5, 2021
Public comment period ends: June 4, 2021 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: September 22, 2010
Current permit expiration date: August 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:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:
City of Mankato PO Box 3368 Mankato, MN 56002-3368	Mankato Water Resource Recovery Facility 701 Pine Street Mankato, MN 56001-2930 Blue Earth County T108N, R26W, Section 006	Nancy Heskett Municipal Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 7381 Airport View Drive Southwest Rochester, MN 55902 Phone: 507-206-2605 Email: nancy.heskett@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: Minnesota River - Mankato

Receiving water: Minnesota River - Class 2B, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of permitted facility

The existing facility has a continuous discharge from SD 001. This is a Class A facility.

The facility is designed to treat:

An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 11.25 million gallons per day (MGD);
an average dry weather (ADW) flow of 6.0 MGD;
a peak hourly wet weather (PHWW) flow of 36.0 MGD;
a peak instantaneous wet weather (PIWW) flow of 42.0 MGD;
an annual average flow of 9.38 MGD;
five-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) of 160 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

The facility consists of preliminary treatment (two mechanical bar screens, two vortex grit removal units, two grit concentrators and two grit dewatering units); flow equalization (three equalization basins); primary treatment (two primary clarifiers); secondary treatment (four complete mix-activated sludge aeration basins and three secondary clarifiers); tertiary treatment (a phosphorus removal process consisting of a high rate chemical/physical precipitation process, which consists of two microsand ballast assisted flocculation processes and two lamella clarification processes; cloth media filters; a chlorine contact basin and three rapid mix chambers and disinfection (two chlorination contact tanks and a dechlorination tank). The facility also includes a recycled water pumping station. Sludge treatment consists of two dissolved air floatation thickening tanks, two belt filter presses that include a gravity thickener phase and a press phase, and three primary anaerobic digesters and one secondary anaerobic digester. On-site biosolids storage consists of a dewatered solids bunker. Biosolids are land applied to approved sites.

The proposed facility will maintain the existing discharge at SD 001. It will also remain a Class A facility and will maintain design parameters and flow values above.

The proposed facility will maintain the two mechanical bar screens(to be replaced), two vortex grit removal units, two grit concentrators as well as the two grit dewatering units as well as the addition of a washer/compactor system. The three equalization basins, two primary clarifiers, four complete mix-activated sludge aeration basins and three secondary clarifiers will remain with work being done to replace the aeration basin walkways and electrical systems. The phosphorus removal process of high rate chemical/physical precipitation process consisting of two microsand ballast assisted flocculation processes, two lamella clarification processes and cloth media filters will remain. The chlorine contact basin, dechlorination basin and the reuse return building will be demolished and replaced and a new chemical feed building will be added. The dissolved air floatation tanks will be replaced with a rotary drum and new thickening system, the two primary digesters and single secondary digester will be replaced with three new anaerobic digesters, digester three will be retrofit to a sludge storage tank, work will include expansion of onsite biosolids storage. The septage receiving station will also be expanded.

The facility has an existing and will maintain an agreement to provide a portion of the disinfected tertiary recycled water from the facility for use as non-contact cooling water at the Mankato Energy Center (MEC). The amount of recycled water supplied to the MEC will vary due to energy demand, operational status of the MEC, and seasonal and daily conditions affecting the cooling efficiency and evaporation rate of water at the MEC cooling towers. Up to three-fourths of the cooling water will be lost to evaporation. The remaining water will be returned to the facility and commingled with treated effluent prior to dechlorination and discharge to the Minnesota River via SD 001.

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.