

General information

Public comment period begins: October 1, 2020
Public comment period ends: November 30, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: August 20, 2012
Current permit expiration date: July 31, 2017

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 Hibbing
401 E 21st St
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746

Facility name and location:

Hibbing WWTP South Plant
11669 Town Line Rd
Hibbing, MN 55746
St. Louis County
T057N, R20W, Section 032

MPCA contact person:

Stephanie Lyons
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 Lake Ave S
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-302-6643
Email: stephanie.lyons@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: St. Louis River

Receiving water: Unnamed creek (East Swan Creek) - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of [permitted facility/activity or name of project]

The existing facility has a continuous discharge from SD001. The facility is a Class A.

The facility is designed to treat:

- An average wet weather (AWW) flow of 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD)
- An average dry weather (ADW) flow of 3.6 million gallons per day (MGD)
- 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD5) of 150 milligrams per liter (mg/L)

The facility consists of primary, secondary and advanced treatment of wastewater.

Primary treatment consists of a splitter and diversion structure for bypass to equalization basins as needed, two mechanical bar screens, three aerated grit chambers, and two primary clarifiers.

Secondary treatment consists of a pump station, 4 trickling filters (first two parallel, last two in series), four secondary clarifiers, five dual media sand filters (sand and anthracite), chlorination, dechlorination, and effluent aeration.

Solids treatment consists of gravity thickening, two stage anaerobic digestion, and a 1-acre storage pond, followed by land application.

The Facility includes a bypass diversion structure that can divert flow during periods of high flow to an equalization (EQ) basin system

consisting of one 2.0 acre aerated EQ basin, and one 15.0 acre aerated EQ basin, and a 1 acre polishing pond. Flow from the EQ basins and the polishing pond can be re-diverted back to the pump house for recirculation through the facility's primary and secondary treatment. The Facility also has an emergency discharge from the EQ basins that have the capability of discharging partially treated wastewater when the basins are full and the plant is at maximum capacity.

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.