

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** September 23, 2020  
**Public comment period ends:** November 23, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)  
**Current permit issued:** August 21, 2014  
**Current permit expiration date:** July 31, 2019

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

**Facility name and location:**

Fairmont Water Treatment Plant  
1022 Albion Avenue  
Fairmont, Minnesota 56031  
Martin County  
T102N, R30W, Section 017

**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](mailto:marcell.mikkelson@state.mn.us)

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

A draft permit and supporting documentation 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:** Dutch Creek - Class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

## Description of permitted facility

The Fairmont Water Treatment Facility (facility) was formerly located at 1022 Albion Avenue, Fairmont, Minnesota 56031, Martin County. The new Fairmont Water Treatment Facility is now located at 300 Day Street. This permit applies to the lime ponds of the former Water Treatment Facility.

The existing Facility produces drinking water with the use of lime/soda softening with sand filters. The Facility is designed to treat an average of 1.4 million gallons of drinking water per day with a maximum production capacity of 3.2 million gallons. Lime and soda ash are added at the fast-mix basin for softening, followed by the slow-mix basin, and then the softened water flows into clarifiers for liquid/solids separation before filtration. The removed solids are dewatered with filter presses and land applied for final disposal.

Prior to the installation of filter presses in September 2013 the lime solids sludge was pumped to sludge-settling ponds five times per day at 1200 gallons per cycle, with the solids settling out in the ponds, and the water was either lost to evaporation or discharged to Dutch Creek.

The City of Fairmont (City) has constructed a new water treatment system, and no longer utilizes the settling basins. The draft permit contains requirements for annual reporting of facility closure progress. Discharges from SD 001 and SD 002 are allowed for dewatering of the solids in the pond until facility closure is completed. Upon completion, there will be no discharge from solids dewatering and the City may apply for the termination of this Permit.

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.