

General information

Public comment period begins: July 23, 2021
Public comment period ends: August 23, 2021(4:30 p.m.)

Current permit issued: November 22, 2013
Current permit expiration date: October 31, 2018

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:
Green Plains Inc 1811 Aksarben Dr Omaha, NE 68106-2279	Green Plains Fairmont LLC 1125 Bixby Rd Fairmont, MN 56031-1418 Martin County T102N, R31W, Section 1	Sarah Starr Industrial Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, MN 55155-4194 Phone: 651-757-2335 Email: sarah.starr@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>. 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

Facility production is 123 million gallons per year of undenatured ethanol, consuming approximately 43.7 million bushels (approximately 1.2 million tons) of corn per year. The Facility co-produces 360,000 tons per year of distiller's dry grains with solubles (DDGS) and occasional lesser amounts of syrup and wet cake, sold as animal feed. The Facility also extracts corn oil as a co-product, and manages warehousing/storage/shipment elevators for grain not consumed at the Facility. The fuel supply is natural gas.

The source water is supplied by wells in the Cretaceous, Mt. Simon and sand and gravel aquifers. The water supply is treated and distributed to the ethanol production process, boiler, cooling tower and cold lime softening (CLS) system. The water treatment residual wastes, boiler and cooling tower blowdowns, and floor drainage from the Water Treatment Building are treated by the CLS system, with the sludge press filtrate and Water Treatment Building sumps returning back to the holding tanks for re-treatment. The lime sludge is stored indoors before transport off-site to a MPCA-authorized landfill for disposal. As another option, the Facility plans to sell by-product limes as agricultural liming materials. The boiler feed ion exchange softener regeneration wastes are incorporated into the wet cake/DDGS.

Reverse osmosis (RO) system cleaning and permeate flush wastewaters and residuals are hauled into the process water system. Boiler cleaning residuals have no blowdown or other release from the Facility. The CLS clarifier effluent, and other flows (such as tank bottoms, hydroblasting and washdown waters, floor drainage and wet air emission control waters) generated by the ethanol and co-product production processes are recycled and contained within the production process system, and have no blowdown or other

release from the Facility. Rinse waters, sediments and the residuals from the other non-utility waste streams noted above are returned to the ethanol manufacturing process, which leads to the generation of ethanol and other co-products. None of the syrup, stillage, wet cake, modified wet cake, DDGS, or other byproducts are land-applied.

The only outdoor storage of raw materials, products, byproducts and solid wastes is for containerized totes, packaged containers, wet cake and truck and rail fuel loading/transfer areas. The outdoor management of wet cake consists of storage on, and transport from, a walled, unroofed concrete pad. Drainage from this pad is collected on the pad and returned to the ethanol production process.

Stormwater runoff is managed by best management practices, including detention ponds, most of which collectively discharge through weir outfall SD 002 to the municipal storm sewer, which discharges at County Highway 39 to Judicial Ditch (JD) 18 to Center Creek (both class 2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 waters). Drainage from the DDGS Storage Building, Administration Building and entrance road flows to the Highway 39 ditch, separate from outfall SD 002. No tile drains are present except for: pre-existing east-flowing tiles in the N ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 1; the JD 18 old and new (parallel) tile mains; JD 18 tile Branches F and G; tile placed laterally along the edge of the rail loop immediately upgradient of the SD 002 pond inlets; and a drain tile from the north side of the cooling towers to the stormwater collection system. No tiles have open intakes/drains on the Facility property, or convey cooling water or other non-stormwater flows.

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.