Public Notice of Intent to Reissue
Wastewater
Permit MN0068764

General information

Public comment period begins: November 20, 2018
Public comment period ends: December 19, 2018 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: May 29, 2013
Current permit expiration date: April 30, 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:
LG Everist, Inc.
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Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57117-5829
LG Everist, Inc.
43966 County Highway 17
Ortonville, Minnesota 56278
Big Stone County
T121N, R46W, Section 026
Danielle Drussell
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
525 South Lake Avenue, Suite 400
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-302-6611
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File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 1-844-828-0942

A draft permit and statement of basis are available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. 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 - Headwaters
Receiving water: Minnesota River - Class 1C, 2Bdg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6 water

Description of Permitted Facility

This granite mining facility mines, crushes, and processes granite for use in the aggregate industry. It produces an average of 20,000 tons of granite per week and a maximum of 25,000 tons of granite per week for use as product. Quarry operations include drilling and blasting granite, loading granite fragments into haul trucks by front-end loader, transporting granite fragments to the processing plant, sizing by crushing and screening, and washing crushed granite. Sized material is stockpiled for load-out into truck or rail. The plant generally operates from March through October, although maintenance activities continue throughout the year.

Discharge from the facility covered under this permit includes stormwater, wastewater from quarry dewatering, and process wastewater from washing crushed granite.

Quarry dewatering facilitates quarry mining operations. Groundwater seeping into the quarry collects in a small pond. This water is pumped out of the quarry and discharged to the Minnesota River. The dewatering water discharges at an average rate of 200,000 gallons per day and a maximum rate of 480,000 gallons per day. Dewatering usually occurs for 10 hours per day from March through October. Dewatering is rarely needed during the winter months. At no time does any plant process or non-process water come into contact with any quarry dewatering activities.

Process water is used to wash granite particulates off of newly crushed granite, and is recycled for repeated use through two settling ponds. The pond system receives water from an adjacent slough (MNDNR Water Appropriation Permit Number 1976-4024), stormwater, and spring water. The first pond (Pond 1) accepts the washwater, where most of the particulate granite settles out. Pond 1 flows to a second settling pond (Pond 2) where further settling occurs. Water from Pond 2 is pumped to the washing station, where it is used again to wash additional crushed granite.
Process generated wastewater discharges intermittently. Discharge is precipitation dependent driven by an increase in stormwater runoff and spring discharge. This additional water causes the settling ponds to discharge via the southern end of Pond 2 (SD002). The water is discharged into an intermittent stream that flows through the quarry area to a flood plain on the Minnesota River. On quarry grounds, the west side of the stream is stabilized with riprap, while the east side is stabilized with vegetation.

Settling ponds are excavated weekly or as needed during the production season. Fines are dug out of the ponds with an excavator and hauled to a storage site. These ponds were modified from existing wetlands in 1971 for use as settling ponds, and their shape prevents accessing portions of the ponds with excavators. Excavation occurs around the perimeter of the ponds where accessible by heavy equipment. Placement of a silt screen in front of the outlet from Pond 2 will be required during excavating to mitigate discharge of re-suspended sediment from these activities.

Fines excavated from the ponds are temporarily stockpiled next to the ponds to allow excess water to drain back into the treatment ponds. The fines are later moved to a stockpiling area near the western border of the facility.

SD002 has been added to address an unpermitted, intermittent, precipitation dependent discharge to the Minnesota River. 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.