Public notice of intent to issue
Feedlots
Permit MNG440000

General information

Public comment period begins: June 8, 2020
Public comment period ends: July 23, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: February 1, 2016
Current permit expiration date: January 31, 2021

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to issue this permit for a term of approximately five years.

Name and address of Permittee: Multiple
Facility name and location: State of Minnesota
General Animal Feedlot NPDES Permit
520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, MN 55155

MPCA contact person:
George Schwint
Watershed Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2165
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 320-894-5866
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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. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft permit and fact sheet 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: Statewide
Receiving water: Statewide

Description of permitted activity

The MPCA proposes to issue a General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the construction, expansion, modification, or operation of animal feedlots in Minnesota. A NPDES permit is required for any animal feedlot facility that currently has capacity, or is proposing to have capacity, that meets or exceeds any one of the federal large confined animal feeding operation thresholds and discharges to waters of the United States. Additionally, animal feedlots that are required to obtain a State Disposal System (SDS) permit may choose to obtain an NPDES permit in lieu of the SDS permit.

Animal feedlot owners across the State of Minnesota will apply for coverage under this permit. Upon MPCA approval, a qualified animal feedlot will be authorized to operate in compliance with this permit for five years.

The permit establishes conditions that will govern construction or expansion of the covered facility, and also conditions governing operation and maintenance of the covered facility, including management of manure. The General NPDES Permit authorizes discharges to waters of the state only if the covered facility is in compliance with Minn. R. ch. 7020, 40 CFR § 412 and all applicable portions of the permit. A more complete description of the permit can be found in the factsheet associated with this notice.

The preliminary determination to issue this Feedlots 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.