



General information

Public comment period begins: Monday, December 5, 2016

Public comment period ends: 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2017

Current permit issued: February 1, 2011

Current permit expiration date: February 1, 2016

Name and address of Permittee:

Northern States Power Co dba Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall, GO2
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1927

Facility name and location:

NSP - Red Wing Ash Disposal Facility
1520 Bench Street
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
Goodhue County
T113N, R15W, Section 035

MPCA contact person:

Daniel Aamodt
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Industrial Division
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: 651-757-2435
Email: daniel.aamodt@state.mn.us
File manager phone:
651-757-2728 or 1-844-828-0942

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this permit for a term of approximately ten years. A draft permit is 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: Upper Mississippi River, Lower Portion

Receiving water: NA

Description of permitted facility

This facility is classified as a mixed municipal solid waste combustor ash land disposal facility. The MPCA originally permitted this facility on July 28, 1987. Ash and ash contaminated wastes resulting from the combustion of refuse derived fuel at the NSP dba Xcel Energy Red Wing Steam Plant and the Xcel Energy French Island Plant, as well as ash from the city of Red Wing's incinerator are disposed of at this facility.

The original permit authorized the development of the first four phases in the seven acre west cell. The permit was reissued on June 8, 1993, to allow continued development of Phases 4 and 5 of the west cell. The MPCA granted development of Phase 6 in correspondence dated May 2, 1996, and Phase 7 in correspondence dated June 19, 1997. The west cell had an airspace capacity of 592,000 cubic yards. The west cell was closed in stages with the last portion of the final cover construction approved by the MPCA in 2000.

On March 22, 1999, the MPCA authorized the construction and operation of a 629,200 cubic yard east cell. The permit was modified on May 10, 2012 to increase the total permitted capacity of the east cell to 861,330 cubic yards.

On May 10, 2012, the MPCA approved a major modification to expand the refuse derived fuel (RDF) ash disposal area. The Permittee proposed to continue operations in the east cell of the Facility and with the expansion fill in the gap (referred to as the center cell) between the east and west cells. The total capacity of the Facility for the combined east and west cells is 1,453,300 cubic yards. The expansion incorporating the center cell added approximately 981,500 cubic yards of capacity for a revised ultimate design capacity of 2,434,800 cubic yards.

The current permit application for reissuance does not propose any further expansions to the facility. The Permittee has proposed a plan for RDF ash reclamation. This plan involves removing ash from areas within the east cell as well as the center cell and transporting it to separate facility off-site where the ash will be processed for the recycling of ferrous and non-ferrous metals. After the ash has been run through the processing facility, it will be returned to the disposal area from where it originated. Ash will not be reclaimed from the west cell as it has already recieved final cover. Upon issuance of this permit, the Red Wing Ash Disposal Facility would be authorized to perform ash reclamation activities and continue disposal operations for a permit term of 10 years.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Solid Waste 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. The 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.