

General information

Public comment period begins: March 26, 2021

Public comment period ends: April 26, 2021 (4:30 p.m.)

Current permit issued: April 15, 2015

Current permit expiration date: March 31, 2020

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

This draft permit was originally public noticed on March 19, 2021, and has been revised to correct an administrative error

Name and address of Permittee:	Facility name and location:	MPCA contact person:
Craig Lundmark Hennepin County Energy Center 600 10th Ave S Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415	Hennepin County Energy Center 600 10th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55415 Hennepin County T029N, R24W, Section 026	Steven Theisen Industrial Division Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road N St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: 651-757-2602 Email: steven.theisen@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: Mississippi River - Twin Cities

Receiving water: Mississippi River-2Bg, 3C, 4A, 4B, 5, 6

Description of permitted facility

The Hennepin County Energy Center (HCEC), located at 600 10th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MN provides heating and cooling services for the Hennepin County Medical Center and other customers located in downtown Minneapolis.

HCEC has authorization for a point source discharge of cooling tower blowdown/ condenser water. Cooling tower blowdown is recirculated 6+ times through the tower prior to bleedoff. The source water is chlorinated public water supplied at a maximum rate of 417,000 gallons per day. Groundwater is used as a backup supply (MNDNR appropriates permit #876288). Samples of the discharge from the facility are taken from inside the facility prior to discharge to the stormsewer.

The facility has an reverse osmosis waste stream, which discharges to the sanitary sewer and is covered by the publicly owned treatment works, and is not covered by this permit. The equipment cleaning and wastewaters are also discharged to the sanitary sewer system. All other discharges to the sanitary sewer are not regulated under this permit. The HCEC is not required to monitor stormwater related to industrial activity because the SIC Code (4961: Steam and Air-conditioning supply) associated with the facilities industrial activity is not regulated by the MPCA. Chemical additives are approved for use and are listed at the end of the permit in Appendix A. Chemical additives used in the closed-loop chiller system are not evaluated by this permit because this system is closed and does not discharge through this permit.

The maximum design flow for this facility is 0.936 mgd.

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.