

General information

Public comment period begins: March 7, 2018

Public comment period ends: 4:30 p.m. on April 6, 2018

Current permit issued: July 17, 2012

Current permit expiration date: June 30, 2017

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:

Saint Paul Port Authority
380 Saint Peter St Ste 850
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Facility name and location:

Saint Paul Port Authority Authority-
Southport Barge
637 Barge Channel Rd
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55107
Ramsey County
T028N, R22W, Section 009

MPCA contact person:

Emily Schnick
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-757-2699
Email: emily.schnick@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> 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.

Description of permitted activity

The St. Paul Port Authority conducts dredging within its barge terminals located along the Mississippi River within the city limits of St. Paul between river markers 833.0 and 840.0. This permit authorizes the management of dredged material from multiple terminals with all dredged material being transferred to the Southport Terminal. These terminals serve industry that utilize waterborne shipping with a barge channel providing access for Midwest producers to the Mississippi River transportation system, gulf coast ports and world-wide markets. The total volume of material dredged is approximately 50,000 cubic yards per year.

The nature and quality of dredged sediment removed will vary considerably depending on its location in the channels. Dredged material removed will be placed for temporary storage at the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) placement site identified as 2-836.3-RMP: "Southport" (Channel Maintenance Management Plan dated 4/96), which is located on-site at Southport. Dredged material will remain in the placement site for a period of up to a year for dewatering, followed by re-use of the dredged materials. Sediment samples are taken from each removal phase after dewatering at the placement site, but prior to final disposition; the composition and pollutant level of the respective material will dictate its final disposition in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

The Southport Terminal is served by a stormwater system that drains surface water 60 feet back from the dock wall and filters it through two rain gardens before being routed to two Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP) settling ponds for infiltration into the surrounding wetlands area. A third NURP settling pond exists to provide drainage and sediment control at the head of the barge channel.

There is no return water or other discharge from the project sites or placement area associated with either project; surface water discharge is not authorized by this permit.

Storage and reuse of dredged material are authorized in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Prior to the use of a new site for storage or disposal of dredged material, the Permittee shall obtain written MPCA approval for such use.

This permit does not authorize or otherwise regulate dredging activity. However, dredging activity is subject to the water quality standards specified in Minn. R. chs. 7050 and 7060. Surface water discharge, except stormwater and incidental discharges as specified by this permit, is not authorized under the terms of this permit.

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.