General information

Public comment period begins: September 3, 2020
Public comment period ends: October 5, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)
Current permit issued: April 11, 2017
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 one year.

Name and address of Permittee: Facility name and location: MPCA contact person:
Todd Malecha Multi-Site - Malecha Dairy Inc Molly Costin
14542 County Road 33 14864 County Road 33 Watershed Division
Villard, MN 56385 Villard, MN 56385 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Pope County Pope County
T126N, R36W, Section 026 714 Lake Avenue Suite 220
MPCA contact person: Molly Costin
714 Lake Avenue Suite 220
Watershed Division
714 Lake Avenue Suite 220
Pope County
+ Phone: 218-846-8114
Email: molly.costin@state.mn.us

Watershed: Sauk River

Description of Activity

This is a public notice to modify a manure management plan (MMP) for an Animal Feedlot that currently has coverage under the State of Minnesota General Animal Feedlot National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. A copy of the MMP modification is available for review at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the MMP modification upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing or before the public comment period end date and time identified above.

The permitee has proposed to modify the previously approved MMP by including additional land application acres. The new land application acres are located in the S ½ of section 28, Orange Township, Douglas County, the NE ¼ of Section 15 Westport Township, Pope County, and the SE ¼ of Section 18 and south ½ of Section 17 in Sauk Center Township, Stearns County, Minnesota. The fields being added cover approximately 555 acres to be used for crop production and land application of manure.

The preliminary determination to modify 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 permit application and the preliminary determination to issue coverage under a general permit.
2. Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
3. Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Only the portions of the permit coverage that are proposed to be modified are open for comment and petition.

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 and the preliminary determination to issue coverage under a general permit.
(2) The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the application materials 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.