

**Why did Northern Metals request an extension?**

The court order called for Northern Metal to discontinue its shredder operations in Minneapolis by Aug. 1, 2019. On June 20, the company notified MPCA that the Becker site will not be ready by then because the City of Becker is unable to complete sewer and water extensions by that date. Due to this circumstance, Northern Metal requested a two-month extension to the Aug. 1 deadline.

**What was the MPCA's response?**

The court order contains a provision for the company to ask for an extension if they are unable to shut down the Minneapolis shredder facility due to circumstances beyond their control, and that was the reason they cited in their request. MPCA and the Attorney General's staff considered the request, determined it was not reasonable and denied the extension request.

**What was Northern Metals' response?**

The company disputed the decision and invoked their right to pursue dispute resolution with MPCA, an option available to them under the 2017 consent decree. On July 25, while the dispute resolution was still underway, the company requested court intervention to allow them to continue operation after August 1. On July 30, the Ramsey County District Court issued an order that allows Northern Metals to continue operating after August 1, while Northern Metals and MPCA are engaged in the dispute resolution process.

**What happens now?**

MPCA has begun discussions with the company, and intends to continue with the dispute resolution process as it is laid out under the consent decree.

**What happens to the Minneapolis site when the shredder moves?**

The property is leased and the company retains the right to use it for purposes other than shredding. The shredder building is likely to remain in place for a period of time, even though the shredding equipment it contains will be decommissioned.

**Will they continue to need an air permit for the Mpls site?**

Their current air quality permit for the Minneapolis site covers activities that may cause fugitive dust and stormwater runoff. Depending on how the company uses the site after the metal shredder is taken out of service, they may not need a permit or may need a different one. Upon ceasing their shredding operation, Northern Metal is required to either void its permit if it is no longer needed, or submit an application to modify its permit.

**Does Northern Metal have a permit for the Becker site?**

Yes, a five-year permit was issued in June 2018 and the company can begin operating under this permit when they are ready. The permit requires extensive monitoring of equipment, control equipment, and site conditions, as well as comprehensive performance testing of their stack emissions. The permit is available [here](#).

**Is the MPCA still monitoring air quality around the Minneapolis site?**

Air monitoring began in 2014 and continues today, with three monitors around or near the site. Monitoring shows that:

- The state standards (primary and secondary) for Total Suspended Particulate have been violated multiple times since monitoring began.
- The federal standard for PM10 (particulate matter of 10 microns in size) has been exceeded twice at the Pacific Street monitor, most recently in April 2018.
- Lead concentrations have been measured at up to 80% of the national lead standard.

Of the three monitors near the Northern Metal, the one located across the river from the facility shows much lower concentrations, indicating that particulate matter and metals do not travel far from the facility. You can view monitoring data [here](#).

**Will air monitoring continue?**

Air monitoring will continue at the site after the shredding operation is gone. MPCA will determine how long to continue monitoring based on results overtime. It is likely one or more of the monitors will stay in place for at least three years.