

SAF Environmental Review and Permitting Process



This process is estimated to take 8-14 months



Reach out to MN Business First Stop at MN DEED

Pull together the necessary documents about your project and permitting needs. Our interagency team offers permitting and regulatory expertise and assists complex business location and expansion projects by working closely with business leaders and their site selection, permitting and environmental consultants. For more information, please see the SAF General Outreach Map at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/e-af1-03.pdf>.

Contact Lisa Hughes for an initial conversation. Lisa.Hughes@state.mn.us | 507-380-3220

Environmental Review (ER)

Permitting

Determine if ER is needed

MPCA will determine if project will require Environmental Review (ER). If not, only refer permitting steps to the right

Submit Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)

Proposer should submit a draft EAW to MPCA, which will be reviewed to ensure key components are included

Outreach to Tribal Nations

Outreach should be done early and often for ER and permitting to ensure Tribal Nations are aware of your project and can consider impacts

MPCA publishes EAW

Notice is published in the EQB Monitor

EAW public comment period

EAW will be open for public comments

Decision on Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

MPCA decides if an EIS will be needed. If an EIS is needed, then proceed to EIS preparation

Determine required permits and certifications

Refer to the General Outreach Roadmap [link] to identify both required and project-specific additional permits

Submit permit applications and begin review

Permit applications can be submitted concurrently with the EAW, but they will not be issued until ER process is complete

Consult and coordinate with state agencies

Consult early and often for various permits managed by MPCA, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Public comment period

Proposal will be open to community feedback and public comments. Review and respond as required

Issue final permits

Project can be started if an EIS is not needed

