



REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Annual permitting efficiency report

and

Progress report on Executive Order 26-03

OCTOBER 2026

These reports both meet a statutory obligation to track MPCA's efforts to maintain high efficiency in completing environmental permits in order to support Minnesota's economy. For EO 26-03, this serves as the first progress report.

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

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Report to the Legislature, October 2026, submitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Legislative charge

Minn. Stat. § 116.03, subd. 2b.

Report to Legislature

The commissioner must prepare an annual permitting efficiency report that includes statistics on meeting the tier 2 goal in paragraph (a) and the criteria for tier 2 by permit categories. The report must be submitted to the governor and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over environment policy and finance by October 1 each year and must be posted on the agency's website. The report must include:

(1) for each permit application that has not met the goal, an explanation of whether the delay was caused by the responsiveness of the proposer, lack of staff, scientific or technical disagreements, or the level of public engagement;

(2) for each permit that has not met the goal, the number of days from initial submission of the application to the day of determination that the application is complete;

(3) a summary of the data for the reporting period and an assessment of whether program or system changes are necessary to achieve the tier 2 goal in paragraph (a);

(4) a statement of the number of tier 2 permits completed within the reporting period and, immediately following in parentheses, a statement of the percentage of total applications received for that tier 2 permit category that the number represents, stated separately for industrial and municipal permits; and

(5) for permits that did not meet the goal due to lack of staff, a combined estimate of the aggregate staff resources that would have been necessary for all affected permits to meet the goal.

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Background

This report results from concerns expressed about the length and uncertainty associated with regulatory processes, including environmental review and permitting. In 2010, the Legislature directed the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) to review the environmental review and permitting programs of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), the MPCA, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local units of government. A range of businesses and elected officials suggested that the structure and process of permitting was negatively affecting the business climate and economic growth in Minnesota. Permitting and environmental review process reform was identified by those raising concerns as an important step for Minnesota state government to facilitate job creation in the state.

To address these concerns, Governor Dayton issued Executive Order 11-4 (EO11-04) on January 24, 2011. The Executive Order required MPCA and DNR to adopt a 150-day goal for reaching a permit decision following the determination by the appropriate agency that the permit application is complete. This same goal was then established in Session Laws 2011, Chapter 4, codified in Minn. Stat. § 116.03. This law is referred to as the Permitting Efficiency Law (PEL), and requires, among other things, the MPCA to determine, within 30 business days of receipt of a permit application, whether the application is substantially complete, and to inform the applicant of the deficiencies if the application is incomplete. The PEL also required the MPCA and the DNR to submit semi-annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature on August 1 and February 1 of each year. In 2014, the PEL was amended, changing the requirement to only an annual report due to the Governor and Legislature on October 1. In 2017, PEL was amended to set a new goal of 210 days for Tier 2 permits issued to publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities.

The PEL also established Tier 1 and Tier 2 permit categories. Tier 1 permits are permits that do not require individualized actions or public comment periods and have a 90-day issuance goal. Tier 2 permits are permits that require individualized actions or a public comment period and have a 150-day issuance goal. The list of permit types in each tier can be found in Appendix A.

In 2025, several new and altered requirements for this annual report were added to the law. A requirement was added to provide more details on the number of Tier 2 permits completed compared to the total number of applications received. An additional requirement was added to estimate the additional staff resources that would be required to meet the issuance goals for all permits that missed their goals when the reason given was lack of staff.

In 2026, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 26-03 (EO 26-03) on February 13. This EO required a number of actions from the MPCA, including, but not limited to: review permitting efficiency goals in Minn. Stat. § 116.03, subd. 2b and affirm those goals or suggest new goals; modernize the permitting application process; pilot artificial intelligence to find innovative ways to improve permitting timelines; engage Minnesota businesses and communities and provide an annual progress report by October 1, 2026. The progress report is incorporated into this report in the ‘Executive Order Progress Report’ section.

Introduction

(Current review period: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026).

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA or agency) is committed to ensuring Minnesotans have healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water and a sustainable climate. The MPCA works collaboratively to implement policies that achieve these results. The following report is an assessment of the agency's permitting efficiency as an indicator for our ability to issue environmentally protective permits while also supporting economic growth.

The MPCA manages more than 23,000 air, water and land permits at over 21,000 sites (facilities can have more than one permit). The overall permitting efficiency at the MPCA continues to be very good, with priority permits meeting permit timeliness goals 98% of the time for this reporting period**.** Priority permits are defined as those needing construction for new or expanding projects and are the most technically complex and controversial projects. Non-priority permits are reissuances of an existing permit with no substantive change or construction. The agency continues to focus efforts to complete routine permits by the deadline. While 81% of those permits met timing goals, we know more work is needed.

The agency returned less than 1% of applications as "incomplete" for this review period. This low number of returned applications reflects the agency's commitment to working collaboratively with regulated parties.

Permitting efficiency continues to be very good for priority permits issued by the agency. However, a more detailed look at the media – air, land, and water – shows that not all permitting programs achieve the permitting efficiency goals. Improvement efforts are underway, including those ordered in Executive Order 26-03: Protecting Minnesota's Environment and Health and Supporting Economic Opportunity through Permitting Reform ("executive order" or "EO"), which are discussed in detail in the 'EO Progress Report and improvement efforts' section.

While the agency knows more work is needed to improve our permitting programs, as it stands today, Minnesota's overall regulatory environment supports economic growth. For example, CNBC's Top States for Business ranks Minnesota 5th in the nation in 2026. The ranking is based on 138 metrics in 10 categories of competitiveness. Fundamentally, the ranking helps to identify "the factors companies consider when making site selection decisions, and where states are focusing their economic development efforts to win jobs and business. Each category is weighted based on how frequently states use them as a selling point."

Overview of MPCA's Environmental Permitting Programs

Most permits are issued for a period of five years. A few permit types are issued for 10-year terms or are non-expiring. Permits are issued to businesses, governmental units, and individuals, and cover a wide range of facilities and activities. Permits are required for the construction and operation of facilities that discharge or emit (or have the potential to discharge or emit) specifically defined pollutants and for certain activities.

With few exceptions, the MPCA implements federal regulatory programs on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as the EPA's delegated authority. Without this delegation, many of the current permittees the MPCA serves, as well as new applicants, would be required to seek necessary permits directly from the EPA's Regional Office in Chicago (Region 5). To receive delegation, the state must have its own permitting rules and regulations in place – it does not rely solely on federal

requirements. While many of the requirements are mandated by federal regulations, state laws and the MPCA's permitting processes often allow for increased flexibility and customer assistance, which results in greater overall efficiency than otherwise achievable working directly with the EPA.

Most permits must undergo a public participation process to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to provide input. This process requires a public notice of the draft permit – at a minimum of 30 days – and often includes public meetings or hearings. The MPCA must review, consider and respond to all written comments received and revise draft permits, where appropriate. While this public participation process provides valuable insight to the final permit, it adds time to the permit review and issuance process.

To reduce time, when possible, the MPCA uses a variety of permit types to meet the needs of the regulated community. The use of general registration permits allows the MPCA to cover similar facilities under a standardized permit, applying standardized requirements for all permittees using these types of permits. For most general permits, there is only one statewide public notice period. Therefore, applicants that qualify do not need a separate public notice for their specific facility. Facilities that qualify for a general permit receive their permit much faster than those needing an individual (facility-specific) permit.

Media types for permits issued by the MPCA include:

Air permits – Individual, general, and registration permits for facilities that emit defined air pollutants such as particulate matter, sulfur and nitrogen compounds, and carbon monoxide. Permitted facilities include power plants, refineries, manufacturing plants and dry cleaners.

Land permits – Individual and general permits for facility operations to prevent or minimize the release of pollutants such as landfill leachate, oil, gas, and other hazardous materials. Permitted facilities include municipal and industrial waste transfer stations and landfills, facilities aboveground storage tanks, and hazardous waste storage and treatment facilities.

Water permits – Individual and general permits for facilities that discharge pollutants such as treated sewage, sediment, residual chlorine, and phosphorus to surface water and groundwater of the state. Permitted facilities include animal feedlots, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater conveyance systems from construction projects, industrial sites and municipalities, and extensions of sewer systems.

MPCA Permit Data

Priority vs non-priority permits

- Priority permits are defined as permits that include construction for new or expanding projects and are the most technically complex and controversial projects.
- Non-priority permits are reissuances of an existing permit with no substantive change or construction. While 81% of those permits met timing goals, the agency understands more work is needed to achieve the permitting goals more consistently.

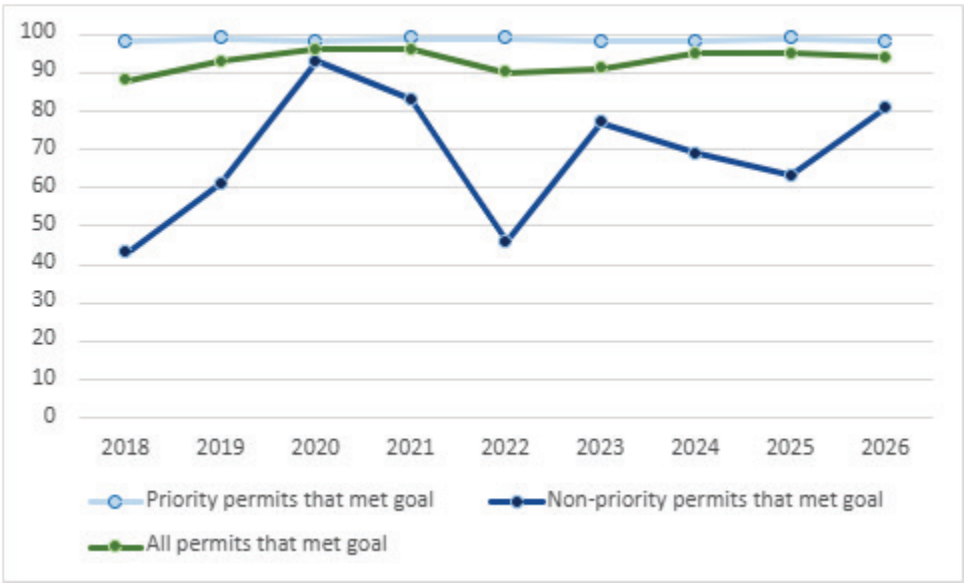
The percentage of permit applications received that met timeliness goals, by year, from 2018-2026, has been at or above 88% (Table 1). There are almost twice as many priority permits as non-priority permits, which means twice as much weight is given to the priority permits as the non-priority permits for the "all permits" percentage. Permit applications that have not met the goal for reporting year 2026 are listed individually, in the Appendix B. When all permits, priority and non-priority, are analyzed across environmental media types, the agency has a steady trend of overall timeliness since 2018 (Table 1; Figure 1).

Table 1. Summary data of priority and non-priority permits across media types for years 2018-2026. *

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Priority permits that met goal	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	98%
Non-priority permits that met goal	43%	61%	93%	83%	46%	77%	69%	63%	81%
All permits that met goal	88%	93%	96%	96%	90%	91%	95%	95%	94%

* Note that each percentage is calculated based on its own set of data, i.e., the bottom row is not the average of the top two rows.

Figure 1. Percentage of permits that met their timeliness goal from 2018-2026. Priority and non-priority are broken out, and all permits are also shown.



Tier 1 permits are permits that do not require individualized actions or public comment periods. These permits have a 90-day issuance goal. Tier 2 permits are permits that require individualized actions or a public comment period and have a 150-day issuance goal or a 210-day issuance goal for publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities. During the review period, the MPCA received 2,361 Tier 1 and 1,240 Tier 2 applications.

There were 1,073 Tier 2 applications that were received during FY 2026. Construction-related permits are noted as priority while non-priority refers to non-construction-related applications. Applications were either issued or pending within FY2026. For permits issued, 94% met their 150-or 210-day goal. For pending applications, time is calculated from the application receipt date to the lesser of today's date or the end of the reporting period FY 2026. Pending permits met their goals 86% of the time. Permit applications that were terminated, returned, denied, or withdrawn are not included in the dataset (Table 2).

Table 2. Tier 2 permit timeliness, by environmental media, in FY2026, during the reporting period.

Media	Issued <= 150	Issued <= 210	Issued > 150	Issued > 210	Pending <= 150	Pending <= 210	Pending > 150	Pending > 210	Total
Priority Air Permits	2	0	3	0	15	0	5	0	25
Priority Land Permits	4	0	2	0	3	0	4	0	13
Priority Water Permits	37	1	4	2	19	3	6	2	74
Non-priority Air Permits	16	0	8	0	34	0	22	0	80
Non-priority Land Permits	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	0	9
Non-priority Water Permits	491	4	19	0	251	36	56	15	872
Total	550	5	36	2	329	39	95	17	1073

Table 3. Percentage of air permits percentage that met goal by priority type, in 2026.

Tier	Priority	2026
Tier 1	Priority permits that met goal	NA
Tier 1	Non-priority permits that met goal	95%
Tier 1	All permits that met goal	95%
Tier 2	Priority permits that met goal	20%
Tier 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	35%
Tier 2	All permits that met goal	32%
Tier 1 and 2	Priority permits that met goal	20%
Tier 1 and 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	71%
Tier 1 and 2	All permits that met goal	66%

Table 4. Percentage of land permits that met their goal by priority type, in 2026.

Tier	Priority	2026
Tier 1	Priority permits that met goal	NA
Tier 1	Non-priority permits that met goal	22%
Tier 1	All permits that met goal	22%
Tier 2	Priority permits that met goal	40%
Tier 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	NA
Tier 2	All permits that met goal	33%
Tier 1 and 2	Priority permits that met goal	40%
Tier 1 and 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	20%
Tier 1 and 2	All permits that met goal	27%

Table 5. Percentage of water permits that met their goal by priority type, in 2026.

Tier	Priority	2026
Tier 1	Priority permits that met goal	100%
Tier 1	Non-priority permits that met goal	100%
Tier 1	All permits that met goal	100%
Tier 2	Priority permits that met goal	73%
Tier 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	85%
Tier 2	All permits that met goal	84%
Tier 1 and 2	Priority permits that met goal	99%
Tier 1 and 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	85%
Tier 1 and 2	All permits that met goal	96%

Air and water Tier 1 permits met permitting efficiency goals 95% and 100% of the time, respectively (Table 3 and Table 5). Tier 1 land permits met the permitting efficiency goal 22% of the time (Table 4). Tier 2 permit types require public notice periods, public engagement, and coordination with federal permitting authorities at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They may also be subject to environmental review requirements, which adds time to the process. Tier 2 permits met the permitting efficiency goal 32%, 33% and 84% of the time for air, land and water, respectively. The list of permit types by media in each tier can be found in Appendix A.

During the review period, the MPCA received 2,361 Tier 1 and 1,240 Tier 2 applications and 81% of those applications resulted in permits issued within the 90-day, 150-day or 210-day issuance goal. Notably, the MPCA experienced more than a 50% increase in Tier 2 applications in 2026 from 2025 and a nearly 12% increase in total permit applications overall, in 2026.

There is a split between what causes delay in Tier 2 permits that do not make the statutory goals for issuance; either applicant or agency-related delays (Table 6). Specific reasons for the permit issuance delay for each permit that does not meet the statutory goal are tracked and reported in Appendix B.

Table 6. Reasons for delay with Tier 2 permits in 2026. Raw number of total applications during the review period, followed by the percentage it represents, in parenthesis

Tier	Priority	Applicant-Related Delay	Agency-Related Delay
Tier 2	Priority	5 (19%)	21 (81%)
Tier 2	Non-priority	12 (10%)	110 (90%)

Understanding the reasons for delay in Tier 2 permits offers insight into areas for improvement in the permitting process. For example, while a permit application may be called administratively complete (i.e. the application is complete and submitted) within the first 30 days, a more in-depth review of the application may result in agency permit staff notifying the applicant that the permit application is technically incomplete (i.e. missing critical information). The agency then waits for the applicant to provide the necessary information which creates a delay during which the agency cannot work on the permit. Tier 2 priority permits are delayed by issues that need to be remedied by the applicant nearly 20% of the time (Table 6).

The MPCA is actively working to improve efficiency where reasons for delay fall within the responsibility of the agency. A “lack of staff” and “no significant external reasons for delay” are the two most frequent responses by agency staff for permit delays. “No significant external reasons for delay” represent areas where the agency needs to evaluate the root cause of the delay using continuous improvement projects, which are ongoing and vary across the media. See further discussion in the “EO Progress Report” and “Improvement Efforts” sections below.

Permit programs are consistently evaluating ways to balance the needs of all Minnesotans. The agency focuses on efficiently issuing permits with timeline certainty, conducting a thorough technical analysis, and engaging Minnesotans on the potential human and environmental impacts of the permitted activities, particularly in overburdened communities.

A statutory change in 2025 requires the agency to report the percentage of total Tier 2 permit applications completed within the reporting period, broken down by industrial and municipal permits. At the outset, it is important to note a significant problem with this metric: Permits are often not issued within the same fiscal year (reporting period) that the application is received by the agency; however, this does not mean that the permit application is processed outside of the statutory goal. This problem also explains why some Divisions have a greater than 100% issue rate during the reporting period; for example, the Industrial Division issued over 100% of Tier 2 permits during the reporting period (Table 7).

During the reporting period, the MPCA issued 305 industrial permits (154% of applications received) and 57 municipal permits (78% of the total applications received). Some permits were issued from divisions other than Municipal and Industrial. For example, solid waste permitting is in the Resource Management and Assistance Division (RMAD) and feedlots permitting is in the Watershed Division. These divisions are included to show a holistic picture of the agency’s permitting programs (Table 7).

Table 7. FY2026 Tier 2 permit issuance totals by agency division within the reporting period.

Division	Total Permits Issued	Percent of Tier 2 Issued by Division
Industrial	305	154%
Municipal	57	78%
RMAD	18	75%
Watershed	701	81%
Total	1081	93%

Table 8. FY2026 Tier 2 issuance totals and percentages from applications received in fiscal year 2026.

Application Received This Fiscal Year?	Total Applications	Percent of Applications
No	486	45%
Yes	593	55%
NA	2	0%
Total	1081	100%

Forty-five percent of the Tier 2 permits issued in fiscal year 2026 were from applications received outside of the fiscal year (Table 8). This data show that permits are often not issued within the same fiscal year the applications are received, nevertheless, the permit may still be issued within the 90, 150 or 210-day issuance goals.

For a second example, permits for publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities have a 210-day goal for issuance. This results in many of the applications received in 2026 being issued in 2027. In this case, a comparison between the applications received and the permits issued in the same fiscal year does not reflect whether the permitting goals were achieved.

Another point to keep in mind is that the number of applications received varies significantly from year to year. This is often due to general permit reissuances for stormwater, feedlots and wastewater permits. (see Appendix C for additional tables/data).

Since many permits are issued from applications received in previous years, and as explained above, there are variations in applications received per year, the percentage of permits issued for a given fiscal year compared to the total number of applications received for that year is not an enlightening metric.

Stable funding and staffing needs

Like many public and private entities, the MPCA also experiences intense budgetary pressure due to rising labor costs, inflation and market uncertainties. Furthermore, federal funding from the EPA has not increased over the past decade or more to reflect these rising costs, and state funding has not kept pace with the increase. Less than 2% of the MPCA's budget comes from the General Fund, and this number has declined over time, creating additional pressure on the Environmental Fund.

For many years, the fees the MPCA collects from regulated parties have not covered the cost of doing the work the agency is directed to do by the state legislature and EPA. The agency has undertaken efforts to revise its fees several times, but each time the efforts stalled. As a result, the agency's fees have not been comprehensively adjusted for decades.

With this background in mind, the MPCA intended to report this year on a new metric: to estimate the amount of additional staff resources needed to issue all permits that did not meet their timeliness goals

due to “lack of staff.” However, as noted above, ongoing funding insecurities at the state and federal level have caused the agency to leave several permitting positions vacant to manage for cost increases. For instance, as of September 2026, the agency has 20 vacant water permit-related positions, four vacant air permit-related positions and eight vacant land permit-related positions. Without long-term, stable funding, staffing levels will continue to fall behind what is needed to meet the statutory goal timelines.

Executive Order Progress Report

Introduction

On February 13, 2026, Governor Tim Walz signed Executive Order (EO) 26-03, *"Protecting Minnesota's Environment and Health and Supporting Economic Opportunity through Permitting Reform."* The purpose of the order was to improve the efficiency and timeliness of environmental permitting; increase transparency for applicants, partners, and the public; strengthen coordination across agencies and programs; and maintain environmental protections and regulatory standards.

Per the EO instructions, the agency began an initiative specific to the seven directives (i-vii) under 1.b. of the EO in March of 2026. These directives were:

i. Review the permitting efficiency goals in Minnesota Statutes 116.03, subdivision 2b and either affirm those goals or work with others to suggest new goals;
ii. Incorporate permitting efficiency goals and corresponding strategies in the agency's 2024 - 2028 strategic plan;
iii. Modernize the permitting application process, with a focus on customer experience, by moving permit applications to online, web-based formats, and publishing a schedule for when this will occur;
iv. Pilot artificial intelligence to find innovative ways to improve permitting timelines;
v. Regularly engage Minnesota businesses and communities via the creation of a permitting efficiency technical advisory group to help develop strategies to reduce permitting timelines;
vi. Develop tools for Minnesota businesses and the Minnesota Business First Stop ("MBFS") to clearly articulate Minnesota's environmental permitting process and potential permitting timelines; and
vii. Provide an annual progress report to the Governor's office by October 1, 2026.

To provide a complete picture of the work the agency has been doing related to this EO, this progress report also includes work accomplished on directives 1.a, and 1.c. Directives are listed in order of the EO with deliverables and accomplishments regarding those deliverables for this reporting period.

Directive 1.a. Employ a two-stage air permitting process to qualifying projects pursuant to its authority in Minn. R. 7007.0750, subp. 7 by March 1, 2026.

Two-stage air permitting allows the MPCA to authorize construction sooner than with single-stage issuance, which combines the construction and operation authorization. To enable two-stage permitting, the agency developed a process for permit engineers to complete and update the permit cover letter to clearly identify the two-stage issuances for permittees. Since implementing the two-stage

air permitting process in February 2026, multiple permittees have utilized the process in this fiscal year, including Mesabi Metallics Co. LLC and Polaris Industries, Inc.

Directive 1.b.i. Review the permitting efficiency goals in Minn. Stat. § 116.03, subd. 2b and either affirm those goals or work with others to suggest new goals.

To address this directive, four deliverables were created and tracked to completion:

1. Permitting efficiency goal review and recommendations.
2. Permitting performance metrics assessment.
3. Cross-program workflow mapping for priority permitting types.
4. Process improvement recommendations and implementation tracking of those priority process improvements.

Deliverable 1: Permitting efficiency goal review and recommendations.

Currently, there are two tiers of permits with different issuance goals. Tier 1 permits that do not require individualized actions or public comment periods and have a 90-day issuance goal. Tier 2 permits are permits require individualized actions or a public comment period and have a 150-day issuance goal or a 210-day issuance goal for publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities.

There are currently four reasons for delay listed in Minn. Stat. § 116.03, subd. 2.b that MPCA must report on in the annual permitting efficiency report: (1) responsiveness of the proposer, (2) lack of staff, (3) scientific or technical disagreements, or (4) level of public engagement. These reasons for delay were reviewed alongside available permit data to ensure reasons are being tracked appropriately. It was determined that they are all being tracked, and that further staff guidance is needed to ensure the tracking is consistent, across programs. This guidance is currently under development.

Reasons exist for permit issuance delays beyond those listed in Minn. Stat. § 116.03, subd. 2.b. There are state laws and rules that regularly add time to the process which makes it very difficult to achieve the timeliness goals to issue permits. Table 9 below outlines state laws and rules that frequently interfere with the state's ability to issue permits within the statutory goal timelines. For instance, when environmental review is required on a project, that often-lengthy process must be completed prior to issuance of any permits associated with that project. Further discussions are planned to make estimates of how much time these processes are taking that in turn impact permit issuance (Table 9).

Table 9. Adjacent statutes, rules, and policies that impact timing of permit issuance.

Name of Statute/Rule	Statute/Rule Citation, Policy
Environmental Review (EAW/EIS)	*Minn. Stat. §116D* and *Minn. R. 4410*
Certificate of Need (landfills)	*Minn. R. 9215.0900*
Cumulative Impacts Analysis; permit decisions in environmental justice areas	*Minn. Stat. §116.065*
Enhanced community engagement	*Minn. Stat. §116.07 Subd 13*
Anti-degradation review	*Minn. R. 7050.0265*
Major modification in a permit reissuance	Minn. R. 7001.0190

Name of Statute/Rule	Statute/Rule Citation, Policy
Adoption of new water quality standards	*Minn. R. 7050.0220*
Variance development from existing water quality standard	*Minn. R. 7050.0190*

An evaluation of existing agency data shows that permit issuance goals for certain permit types could potentially be reduced whereas the goals for other, more complex permits should be extended. Relatedly, the MPCA is planning a pilot of a "start/stop" process where the issuance clock is stopped on MPCA's end when the permit application is sent back to the permittee for further information and then started again when the permittee sends back the information. This would give a more accurate picture of the time the agency alone is spending on permits instead of the overall time it takes to be issued. The agency is also investigating the creation of a Tier 3 category, in addition to the existing Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 3 would include permits with more complexity, involving one or more of the regulatory processes listed in Table 9.

Deliverable 2: Permitting performance metrics assessments.

The agency utilizes a Tableau workbook to track metrics related to existing statutory time requirements for permit issuance. This workbook showcases permitting data from FY2019 through FY2025, to align with the Permit Application Tracker. Inputs come from Tempo (the MPCA's permitting data management system).

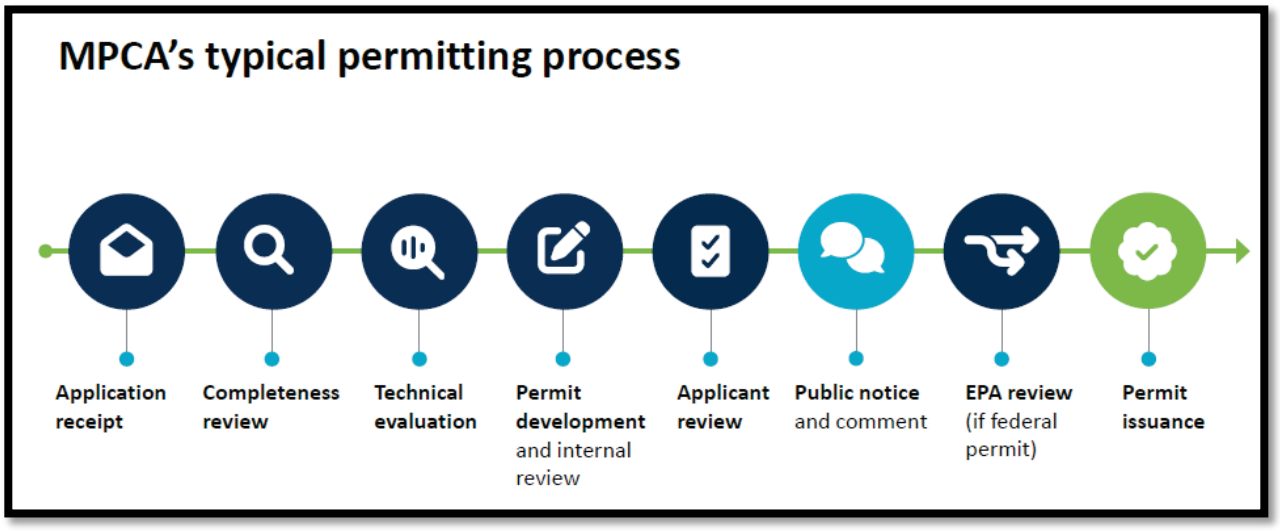
Agency permitting staff reviewed Tableau workbook data to see which permit programs were meeting timeliness goals, and to better understand where improvements can be made. The data show that Tier 1 permits are meeting goals most of the time while Tier 2 permits that have complicating factors like other regulatory processes, cannot feasibly meet the goal.

Future actions are planned to further assess internal factors that may be the cause of not meeting timeliness goals. These include investigating consistency in Tempo use across programs, identifying potential administrative processes that could be improved and creation of better definitions for staff on when to use each reason for delay category.

Deliverable 3: Cross-program workflow mapping for priority permitting types.

A process map was created to represent the permitting phases for air, water and solid waste permits (Figure 2). While each permitting program has unique sub-steps that create a lot of variation in process time and staff involved, the map shows the larger, consistent steps across all permitting programs.

Figure 2. Key steps in MPCA permitting processes, not inclusive of sub-steps involved that are unique to each program.



Deliverable 4: Process improvement recommendations and implementation tracking of priority process improvements.

All agency permitting programs have participated in continuous improvement (CI) efforts in the past two years. From those efforts, media-specific permitting programs created a list of priority projects. Air has had 11 projects, water has had eight projects and land has eight projects. There are also 11 operations level projects that will impact various permit programs across the agency. There is ongoing agency commitment to implement these CI projects.

One example of a project that has been fully implemented is the 'Enhanced Completeness Review' project. This provides early and increased review of mathematical calculations in the air permit application; this review is now part of the 30-day completeness review, so that applicants have early feedback on deficiencies otherwise caught later in the permitting process.

In water permitting programs, six of the eight CI projects are implemented. One of the CI projects that has led to more efficient permit processing is 'Effluent Limits - Permit Prioritization.' This project analyzed how effluent limit staff were prioritizing permit effluent limit reviews and set a process in place to prioritize their work that is in better alignment with permit priorities.

For land permitting programs, two of the eight CI projects are underway. 'Solid Waste Permitting Value-Stream Map and Improvement Idea Generation' was a work session where staff analyzed their current workflow and discussed ideas for improving it. This has led to better processes within the land permitting program.

Directive 1.b.ii. Incorporate permitting efficiency goals and corresponding strategies in the agency's 2024 - 2028 strategic plan.

Deliverable: Edit appropriate goal and strategies of the agency's strategic plan to more explicitly incorporate permitting efficiency.

The MPCA's current strategic plan (2024-2028) has six goals. It was determined that the fifth goal was the most directly linked to permitting efficiencies since it focuses on data governance and the agency's ability to collect, manage and share data both internally and externally. Changes were made to Goal 5 and Strategy 5.3 to more explicitly incorporate permitting efficiencies (Table 10).

Table 10. MPCA's Strategic Plan, Goal 5 with associated strategies. Edits to original language to more explicitly incorporate permitting efficiency is shown in bold italics.

	Original	Edited
Goal 5	Modernize capabilities to collect, manage, and share data.	Modernize capabilities to collect, manage, and share data ***to promote transparency, consistencies, enhance customer experience, and build efficiencies, including permitting programs, at the agency.***
Strategy 5.1	Ensure data assets are managed, trustworthy, and widely available to guide decision-making	Ensure data assets are managed, trustworthy, and widely available to guide decision-making
Strategy 5.2	Convert all external services used to collect data to online applications and improve customer experience	Convert all external services used to collect data to online applications to improve customer experience, including in our permitting processes.
Strategy 5.3	Improve internal customer experience and services to support agency	Improve internal customer experience and services to support agency staff ***by piloting and putting into production digital tools.***

Directive 1.b.iii. Modernize the permitting application process, with a focus on customer experience, by moving permit applications to online, web-based formats, and publishing a schedule for when this will occur.

To address this directive, two deliverables were created and tracked to completion:

- Develop and publish an inventory of current digital permitting tools and systems.
- Create an online permitting services development schedule.

Deliverable 1: Develop and publish an inventory of current digital permitting tools and systems.

Current online services are now listed on this MPCA webpage:

Online services | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Deliverable 2: Create an online permitting services development schedule.

Scheduled online services, broken into two categories (those in development that are set to be released within 18 months and those being designed that will be released in more than 18 months), are published on this MPCA webpage:

Online permitting roadmap | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Directive 1.b. iv. Pilot artificial intelligence to find innovative ways to improve permitting timelines.

Deliverable: Develop digital and AI recommendations and subsequent coordination updates and recommendations.

Since early 2025, the agency has explored the use of artificial intelligence (AI) through three pilot projects. These projects were designed to investigate how AI could improve the efficiency and consistency of the agency's permitting processes. The pilots focused on practical applications of AI within existing business processes and provided an opportunity to assess the benefits, limitations and risks associated with using AI in a government setting. Overall, the pilots demonstrated that AI

provides meaningful opportunities to reduce staff time spent on certain tasks. The projects also provided valuable lessons on how the agency might approach future AI exploration and implementation.

Three AI Pilot Project Details

The agency completed three pilot projects from March 2025 through July 2026. Each project addressed a different business need and provided an opportunity to evaluate AI's potential to improve an existing process.

Pilot #1: Public Comments

The first pilot focused on analyzing and organizing large volumes of permit public comments. Prior to implementation, the process required staff to manually sift through hundreds of public comments received during the public comment period. The AI tool was designed to assist by identifying topics, theming, and organizing the comments into a user-friendly format for staff to review and prepare responses.

The pilot development was an iterative process, with testing and review identifying instances where comments were missing, categorized incorrectly, or required adjustments to the tool's configuration. The team used these findings to refine the process throughout the pilot, and the final product demonstrated an estimated accuracy rate of approximately 95% based on the testing conducted.

The tool is now available for all permit programs to use, and new refinements and enhancements are being discovered as the tool is used.

Estimated time-savings: This pilot demonstrated an estimated reduction of four hours per permit for those with less than 250 comments, but significantly more for controversial permits or environmental review, which could lead to multiple days of work saved.

Pilot #2: Data Extraction

The second pilot was designed to use AI to extract data from Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing results and provide that data in an analysis-ready format for staff. WET testing results have historically been received by the agency in PDF formats, which requires staff to manually transpose the data into a spreadsheet for their review. This tool replaced that effort and now only requires staff to do two simple upload/download steps to obtain the data in a spreadsheet format.

The quality of the AI-extracted data was evaluated by comparing its outputs to existing staff-produced work and reviewing the results for accuracy and completeness. Staff testing and review was used to identify areas where the tool performed well and where additional refinement was needed. After some iterations, the tool could consistently produce a useful work product, while human review remains necessary to verify the information. As part of the evaluation, the team also discussed this process with other states and did not find examples of AI being used for data extraction efforts like this.

Estimated time-savings: This pilot's testing indicated an estimated time savings of 1 hour per permit.

Pilot #3: Permit Justification Memo

The third pilot focused on the generation of a memo to the permit file that includes the technical justification for whether wastewater effluent limits are required or not for a permit. This is an interactive tool that allows staff to upload pertinent technical documents (sampling results, etc.)

and walks them through a series of questions to create a memo that includes the necessary facility details that provides consistent, standardized output.

Estimated time-savings: This pilot resulted in estimated savings of one hour of staff time per permit and provided more consistency in the memo for use by the downstream staff.

Lessons learned

The pilot projects provided several important lessons about the opportunities and limitations of AI.

AI is most effective when applied to clearly defined business processes where staff spend significant amounts of time performing repetitive or tedious tasks. Also, the quality of the input and instructions significantly affects the quality of the output. Investing the time to identify specific use cases, creating clear instructions, and testing the tool ensures useful results. Human oversight remains essential. AI can produce summaries and outputs of extracted data, but staff will always need to review and remain responsible for the results.

The knowledge and capabilities developed through these pilot projects can serve as a foundation for addressing similar needs across the agency. Rather than viewing each AI tool as a solution for only one specific process, the techniques and approaches can be adapted and applied to other business processes with similar requirements. For example, the ability to extract specific data from PDFs could be applied to numerous types of PDF submittals received by the agency.

While the pilots provide compelling-use cases and prototypes, challenges and needs remain. One is a need for continued financial resources. Language models cost money as you use them, so a budget is necessary. Additionally, there is a real need for skilled AI-IT staff at the agency and within MNIT, since this is not like other existing work. There is also a challenge around choosing whether to build products in-house versus the many off-the-shelf products that are being developed. Another challenge that can be categorized as change management requires staff buy-in and adoption. While continued training on AI tools is key, the ongoing change management component around the use of AI tools is also essential.

State-to-state collaboration

The agency recognizes that other state governments are also implementing AI technologies to improve permitting efficiency. To support continued learning, the agency participates in information-sharing meetings regarding experiences with AI. A number of states have reached out to the agency to learn more about the AI pilots and to share experiences.

The agency participated in discussions with South Carolina Department of Environmental Services regarding its three-step AI permit tool that reviews minor renewal permit applications for completeness, extracts permit limits and generates permit drafts. Additionally, the agency is having ongoing discussions with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to learn about its application review tool that completes both administrative and technical reviews.

The agency plans to continue conversations with South Carolina, Virginia, and other states as a part of our commitment to continuous improvement.

Recommendations for further exploration

Based on the knowledge gained through pilot projects, the agency continues to use and refine AI pilot tools developed and recommends continued exploration of AI tools to support permitting efficiency. The agency will continue to identify business processes where AI has the potential to reduce repetitive work or allow staff to focus more time on complex work requiring human

expertise. Future AI initiatives may include a tool to aid staff in reviewing and summarizing the existing file record for permit reissuances or a tool to verify permit application completeness.

Directive 1.b.v. Regularly engage Minnesota businesses and communities via the creation of a permitting efficiency technical advisory group to help develop strategies to reduce permitting timelines.

To address this directive, two deliverables were created and tracked to completion:

- Create an engagement documentation template.
- Synthesize stakeholder survey responses, documenting recurring themes related to permitting efficiency.

Deliverable 1: Create an engagement documentation template.

To bring a strategic and structured approach to this work, a communications and engagement plan was developed to gather high-value, actionable feedback from businesses and community sectors regarding permitting led by the MPCA. Primary stakeholders, per the Executive Order, are Minnesota businesses and communities, particularly those that have directly participated in the permitting processes that the MPCA is authorized to execute. As an initial step, the agency asked these stakeholders to complete a survey to provide baseline information to guide the agency's efforts to improve permitting efficiency. Additional businesses and community groups may be included in future phases.

Deliverable 2: Synthesize stakeholder survey responses, documenting recurring themes related to permitting efficiency.

A survey of 19 questions was drafted (Table 11), with a goal to gain baseline feedback from those who have directly interfaced with the MPCA's permit programs, to understand their permitting experience. The results are being used to build future engagement efforts. This progress report includes a high-level recap of the survey results, along with some key takeaways and discoveries. Along with the survey, messaging and presentations were developed to support a consistent approach to engagement. This approach also made it easier to synthesize responses and identify findings that will inform decisions on permitting efficiency and the development of transparency tools. All agency divisions connected to permitting contributed to this process, identifying meetings where providing information and background on the survey would be most relevant.

Table 11. Survey questions and answer type for the baseline survey conducted with MPCA permittees during this reporting period.

Question	Answer Type
There are multiple permit programs at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). How many programs have you interacted with and want to give feedback on? The number you select will be the number of times you can answer the survey.	Dropdown choice 1-10
What type of permit will you answer for this round? Choose one.	Multiple choice list of permit programs
I am completing this survey because I am:	Multiple choice: employee of permitted entity, consultant that has assisted a permitted entity, other
When was the most recent application submitted?	Multiple choice: 6 options of various year ranges from 0-11+

Question	Answer Type
I was aware of the information the agency needed for my permit application.	Likert scale, 5 options
I found the permit application easy to complete	Likert scale, 5 options
I was able to easily navigate through the online permit application system and submit the application.	Likert scale, 5 options + NA
Once my application was submitted, I understood the remaining steps of the permit issuance process.	Likert scale, 5 options
I am aware of the MPCA's Permit Application Tracker	Y/N
I have used the Permit Application Tracker	Y/N
Please provide feedback on the Permit Application Tracker	Open ended
When I asked questions of MPCA's permitting staff, they were answered in a timely manner.	Likert scale, 5 options + NA
The time it took from my permit application submittal to my permit issuance was reasonable.	Likert scale
During the permit issuance process, did you experience delays or efficiencies?	Y/N
Please explain what the delays or efficiencies were.	Open ended
The MPCA is committed to continuous improvement of our permitting process. Are you interested in being involved in future engagement?	Y/N
Please enter the best way for us to contact you, including your name (email, phone, US mail):	Open ended
To help us improve the permitting process, how would you prefer to collaborate? (select all that apply)	5 options + Other
Is there anything else about our permitting process that you would like to share with us?	Open ended

On July 21, 2026, the MPCA sent the survey link to 17,477 email addresses found in the agency's Tempo database, representing all permittee records available. Additionally, key stakeholders were encouraged to participate in these ways:

- Announcement at the Minnesota chapter meeting of the National Waste and Recycling Association preparing people to take the survey when received (6/30/26)
- Targeted email sent via the On Point newsletter and Feedlot Update GovDelivery lists (4,733 email addresses total) informing people to check their email for the survey (7/22/26)
- Shared a reminder at the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association's Annual Meeting (7/29/26)
- Sent a survey reminder (8/4/26)
- Shared a reminder at the SWAA Executive Planning meeting (8/12) and then at the SWAA meeting (8/19/26)
- Sent a second survey reminder (8/17/26)

The agency received approximately 630 responses, representing 756 permit experiences (individuals were allowed to answer questions for each type of permit they had worked on). With 56% of the responses, it is important to note that feedlot permittees had a significant impact on averages. The agency acknowledges that the survey results are not a representative sample compared to the percentage of permits issued per program. (Table 12). However, the information gathered in this phase of engagement is useful to help plan next steps and the agency will prioritize engaging with

stakeholders and communities from underrepresented programs. In addition, the agency will continue to work closely with Minnesota Business First Stop to obtain feedback that informs the agency's continued engagement and permitting efficiency work in general.

Table 12. Percentage of responses to the survey by permit type compared to percentage of overall permits issued (sum of FY20 to FY26).

Permit type	% of responses	% of permits issued
Aboveground Storage Tanks	3%	0.3%
Air	7%	6%
Construction Stormwater	12%	58%
Feedlot	56%	9%
Hazardous Waste	5%	0.08%
Industrial Stormwater	7%	7%
Industrial Wastewater	2%	4%
Municipal Stormwater (MS4)	2%	1%
Municipal Wastewater	3%	13%
Solid Waste	5%	0.9%

One question asked in the survey was whether respondents were interested in being involved in future engagement. Of the 500 people who responded to this question, 40% answered yes. The survey then asked how they would prefer to be involved, and they were given five choices. Of the 350 responses by 100 respondents (more than one could be chosen), the top choice was "Digital Feedback: Review drafted guidance on my own schedule" (24%). A close second was "Surveys: Complete anonymous surveys on specific programs" (22.6%). Then "Industry Listening Sessions: Attend roundtables to discuss regulatory updates" (17.4%) and "Hands-on Technical Working Groups: Participate in small, discussion-focused groups" (17.4%) were tied, and "Usability Testing Panels: Review online tools before they launch" (16.8%) came in last.

One important discovery is that only 24% of those surveyed were aware of the MPCA's permit application tracker (PAT), and less than 10% had ever used it. The knowledge and use of this tracker by more permittees and the general public should help address concerns centered around transparency of process. Focusing efforts to increase utilization of the tracker is a key takeaway of the survey.

At a high-level, 52.7% of survey respondents agreed with the assertion "I found the application process easy to complete" while 25.5% disagreed, and 21.8% were neutral. When split out from the total, the air permitting responses were notably different with 47.8% indicating that the process is not simple.

When asked, 51% of survey respondents agreed that the permit timeline was acceptable, 23% disagreed, and 26% were neutral. Furthermore, 28% noted that they did experience a delay in the permitting process. Three permit types – industrial stormwater (45.1%), industrial wastewater (61.5%), and municipal wastewater (42.1%)– showed notably higher percentages for delays.

In terms of having their questions answered in a timely manner, 61% of survey respondents noted that response times were acceptable to a certain extent, 15% didn't believe they were answered in a timely manner, and 24% were neutral. Industrial wastewater permits scored significantly worse, with 61% reporting that the time it took to answer questions was unacceptable.

Since the feedlot program received the most responses, further analysis was done to look for themes. There were several positives to take away from the results. The feedlot program does a good job of communicating certain things, including what information is needed for a permit application and what to expect after an application is submitted. Feedlot program staff provide excellent customer service by providing timely answers to questions and processing applications in a reasonable amount of time. The survey showed areas – including ease of completing a permit application, and navigating the online permit application process – the program could improve. The individual comments showed that having adequate numbers of knowledgeable permitting staff is important for positive customer experience.

Directive 1.b.vi. Develop tools for Minnesota businesses and the Minnesota Business First Stop to clearly articulate Minnesota's environmental permitting process and potential permitting timelines.

As a partner agency in Minnesota Business First Stop (MBFS), the MPCA collaborates closely with DEED and other partner agencies in outreach, education, planning, and project work. For this first stage of progress on the Executive Order, the focus has been to gather external input from Minnesota businesses and communities to better understand their concerns and to inform the development of tools around MPCA's permitting processes and timelines.

The MPCA has gathered information to help inform tool development through the survey described above. MBFS is also gathering input through a series of focus groups with business and community representatives from July through October 2026 for which MPCA provided input on the format and questions and helped identify participants.

The MPCA also continues to provide input on the development of an environmental screening GIS tool that MBFS is developing. This includes identifying relevant data sets within MPCA that will improve the effectiveness of the GIS tool and staff time to ensure relevant data is managed and included appropriately.

The MPCA also joined other MBFS partner agencies in the development of a Minnesota Data Center Regulatory Guide and was one of the primary presenters in a subsequent Data Center Regulatory Coordination Webinar on June 30, 2026.

The MPCA and MBFS will analyze the themes gathered from the survey and focus groups. From these themes and with ongoing business and community input, MPCA and MBFS will collaborate in the second half of fiscal year 2027 to identify areas for further engagement and to develop additional tools and processes to best meet Minnesota business needs and fill gaps in our current permitting and timeliness communications.

Directive 1.c. Update and enhance the Permit Application Tracker currently available on the agency website so that anyone may track the status of open permit applications by April 1, 2026. The Permit Application Tracker should be regularly updated and continuously improved to meet the expectations of Minnesota's businesses and residents.

The Permit Application Tracker (PAT) data is refreshed regularly based on Tempo information. In March 2026, the agency completed one enhancement to the PAT since the initial release in January 2025 and plans another enhancement by January 2027. The first enhancement included an

interactive new map tab. Users can now visualize permit applications across Minnesota and use the filters to locate permit applications in any given area.

With the next release, the agency will include the following enhancements:

- Incorporate a 'general permit status' into the tracker
- Add a county map background layer to the map tab
- Updates to make the tracker run faster
- Updating the tracker to list applications for 30 days after final taken is taken.

Currently, applications drop off the list immediately after issuance, termination, etc. The update will include the final action information and remain on the tracker for a period of 30 days before dropping off.

Improvement efforts

The MPCA is dedicated to continuous improvement and has made many enhancements in its permitting programs in the last five years. Much of the work called for in EO 26-03 was underway at the time of its signing. All permitting programs continue to build on improvement efforts made in FY24 and FY25, noted in previous permitting efficiency reports. Improvements made in FY26 are highlighted here.

Coordination

The agency continues to promote and use the 2024 legislatively established coordinated project plans (CPP). A CPP is a plan and schedule to ensure environmental review and associated required state agency actions (like permitting) are completed efficiently by coordinating and establishing deadlines for all necessary state agency actions. Applicants can easily request a CPP on the agency's website, on the Environmental Review landing page; the CPP provides greater certainty to applicants and project proposers while they navigate the regulatory approval process. To date, only one CPP has been requested by a project proposer.

In addition, while not legislatively required, permitting programs have started developing permit project plans (PPP) between the permitting program and the applicant when environmental review is not needed. The plan is for both the applicant and the agency to follow while working through complex permitting projects.

Agency data management system improvements

The MPCA continues to upgrade its permitting data management system, called Tempo , to improve utility for staff and permittees. The MPCA added new online features in FY26 for some permit types, allowing permittees to update and submit permitting data electronically, and made changes that streamline staff management of permits in Tempo. These changes make submitting information to the agency faster and more accessible, speeding up the overall permitting process. Current online services are now listed on this MPCA webpage: Online services | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. More information on the agency's efforts to modernize and upgrade online services can be found in the EO Progress Report section.

To support the MPCA's commitment to transparency, certainty and customer service, the agency launched the PAT tool in 2025 on its website. This workbook allows regulated parties and members of the public to view the status of permit applications currently being processed by the agency. More information on the PAT can be found in the EO Progress Report section.

Most recently, the agency updated services for electronic permit applications for solid waste permit options and has begun work on its compliance reporting. The MPCA is in process of updating the industrial stormwater permit and monitoring services, allowing nearly all industrial stormwater permits to be auto issued based on data submitted. Finally, additional upgrades have been made to the feedlot permit service that supports nutrient management planning by permittees and more efficient staff review. Further updates to the feedlot services will roll out near the end of calendar year 2026, including an online annual report service.

The agency began work on wastewater permit required reports and permit applications in May 2024. These efforts are priority work to complete with the first of these report submittals from permittees scheduled to be online in mid-2027, with permit applications and additional reporting services to follow. Additionally, the MPCA has been working on four priority wastewater permit types to also go live in 2027.

The MPCA continues to update air permit online services for air registration permits, and that is expected to be operational in 2027, along with several air compliance reporting services. The air compliance reporting systems will provide one place for facilities to report rather than multiple systems with different requirements.

All existing permit services are regularly updated based on user feedback and new laws or rules even while new services are being designed and developed.

Permitting and community engagement

The Minnesota Legislature and the MPCA have taken significant steps toward assessing and addressing inequalities that arise from environmental pollution. In the 2023 legislative session, Minn. Stat. § 116.065 was passed and requires the MPCA to adopt rules to review the cumulative impacts of pollution in certain parts of Minnesota during the air permitting process. The agency's analysis shows that people who live in areas with more low-income residents or more people of color are more than twice as likely as the state average to have polluting facilities nearby and are nearly three times as likely as those in the rest of the state to face risks to their health from pollution emitted by those facilities.

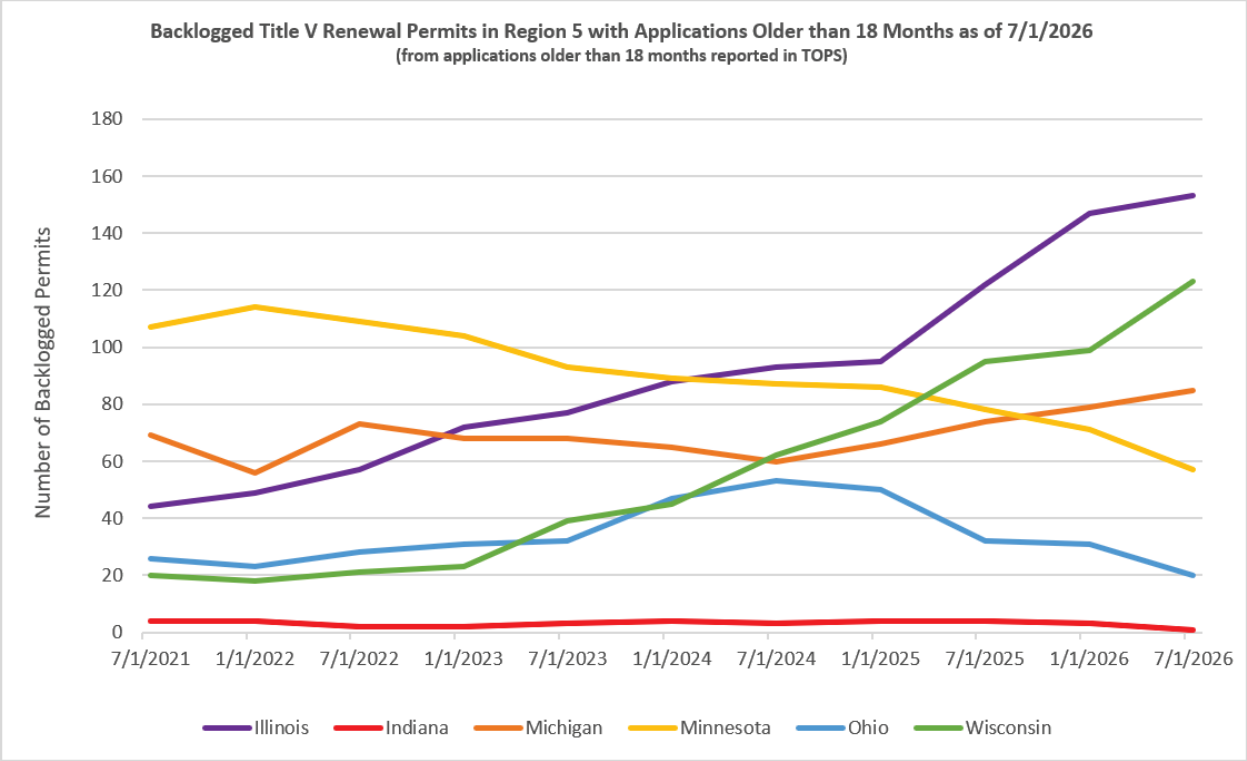
As discussed previously, the legislature has also directed the MPCA to do permitting efficiently under Minn. Stat. § 116.03, subp. 2b, which sets a permitting efficiency goal of 150 days for Tier 2 permits. Applications subject to the proposed cumulative impacts rule would fall under the Tier 2 category, thus this goal will apply. However, the scope of reviews and determinations under the rule, with the potential for a cumulative impacts analysis, multiple public meetings, and a community benefit agreement, means that the permitting efficiency goals would likely not be met for projects that require a cumulative impacts analysis and a community benefits agreement. (See further discussion on this point in the EO Progress Report section, above). Therefore, for projects subject to the proposed rule, the MPCA will need to balance permitting efficiency as well as the more complex reviews for permit projects subject to the proposed rule.

Air permitting program improvements

The air permitting program has progressively built upon continuous improvement projects since late 2023 to identify reasons for delays in permit issuance. In the last year, the program has made a special effort to issue backlogged permits in an effort to speed up the permitting process for new permit applications, and, doing so, the backlog of Title V reissuance applications decreased from around 45% at the beginning of the fiscal year 2026 to 29% at the end of the fiscal year. At this time, Minnesota no longer has the highest percentage of Title V permit reissuance backlogged in EPA Region 5, and it is the lowest it has been in 20+ years for the state (Figure 3).

Reducing the backlog of permit applications has a direct impact on the time it takes to issue new permits for the same facilities because, generally, all permit applications in house are also addressed in a single action. The more backlogged permit applications, the longer a permit can take to be issued. Consequently, eliminating the backlog of permit applications is necessary to reducing the time it takes to issue permits in almost any program.

Figure 3. Percentage of backlogged Title V renewal permits in EPA Region 5 with applications older than 18 months as of 7/1/2026 (Source: US EPA Region 5).



Land permitting program improvements

The Solid Waste permitting program is engaging in a comprehensive program review involving a deep dive into internal and external reasons for permitting delays. A data analyst has been hired to complete the review of the program and its processes. As issues are identified, root cause analyses will be performed and efficiencies to correct causes for delays will be implemented. A final step in the review process will be the creation of comprehensive dashboards and performance management tools to track and monitor permit progress from application to issuance.

Water permitting program improvements

Water permits comprise a substantial portion of the total permit applications received by the agency each year and include some of the most technically complicated and controversial permits. The wastewater program crosses three divisions of the MPCA that work together toward a shared goal of protecting human health and the environment from the disposal of sewage and industrial waste. In FY2026, the wastewater program developed a FY2026 – 2027 Wastewater Task Force consisting of a dedicated technical team focusing on specific Industrial Wastewater permits aimed at increasing efficiencies and reducing the permitting backlog. By the close of fiscal year 2027, the wastewater program will have brought down the NPDES/SDS EPA Majors backlog down from 63% to approximately 28%.

Conclusion

As evidenced in this report, permitting efficiency at the MPCA continues to be progressing for priority permits issued by the agency. However, the agency acknowledges that not all permitting programs achieve the permitting efficiency goals. Improvement efforts —including those ordered in Executive Order 26-03: *Protecting Minnesota's Environment and Health and Supporting Economic Opportunity through Permitting Reform* (executive order or EO), which were discussed in detail in the 'Executive Order Progress Report' section — are underway.

The MPCA's mission is to protect and improve the environment and human health. The agency is committed to ensuring Minnesotans have healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water and a sustainable climate. The agency supports public participation in the agency's decisions, and is committed to engagement, especially with historically under-represented communities.

Minnesotans expect that the state rigorously protects the environment as well as values economic growth and opportunity. The MPCA promotes innovation and strives to continuously improve processes and outcomes. And, when it comes to permitting, the goal is to efficiently provide transparency, accountability and predictability. The MPCA continues to make strides toward this goal.

Appendix A – Tier 1 and 2 permit categories

This Appendix includes a breakdown of Tier 1 and Tier 2 permit types.

Tier 1 (90-day goal)

Air

- Capped Permit – New and administrative changes
- Part 70 General Permit – New and administrative changes
- Registration Permit – New and administrative changes
- State General Permit – New and administrative changes

Feedlots

- Construction short form
- Interim

Hazardous Waste

- Administrative amendment
- Minor amendment

Solid Waste

- General Concrete Permit
- Minor amendments for Solid Waste facilities
- Permit by rule - Notifications, renotifications, and modifications
- Transfer station extensions

Stormwater

- Construction Stormwater General Permit
- Industrial Stormwater General Permit

Wastewater

- Sewer Extension

Tier 2 (150-day goal)

Industrial Wastewater

- Individual Industrial permits

Air

- Administrative Amendment to an individual permit
- Amendments to an individual permit - Major, moderate, or minor
- Applicability Determination
- Individual Part 70 Operating Permit
- Individual State Operating Permit
- Reissuance of expiring Individual Part 70 or State Operating Permit

AST

- Individual permit
- Permit change
- Reissuance

Feedlots

- All other than Construction Short Form and Interim

Hazardous Waste

- Individual Permit
- Major amendment
- Reissuance

Solid Waste

- Major amendments for Solid Waste facilities
- New Solid Waste Facility Permits (non PBR) – (landfills, transfer station, SSO/MSW compost facilities, etc.)
- Reissuance of Solid Waste facility permits
- Utilization Project – Case Specific Beneficial Use Determination
- Utilization Project – Demonstration Research Project

Stormwater

- Industrial Stormwater Individual Permits
- MS4 General Permit
- MS4 Individual Permits

Tier 2 (210-day goal)

Municipal Wastewater

- Individual Municipal permits

Appendix B

This Appendix includes data on Tier 2 projects over 150 or 210 days, and reasons for delay.

The key for the “reason for delay codes”:

COMP – Unresolved compliance issues*

LACK – Lack of staff

NORS – No significant external reasons for delay

WAIT – Waiting for information from applicant*

PBLC – Significant public engagement process

CHRG – Changes in federal or state regulations or policies*

FDRV – Lengthy Federal or EPA review

*Note that COMP, WAIT and CHRG may involve scientific or technical disagreement.

Appendix B - Tier 2 projects over 150 or 210 days, and reasons for delay

Air Permits

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
ADM - Marshall	Major Amendment	priority	2	2025-12-08	-	4	204	WAIT
Andersen Corporation	Minor Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-10-01	-	12	272	WAIT
Arandell Corporation	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-07-14	2026-01-15	1	185	NORS
Arctic Cat Inc	Part 70 Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-07	-	42	327	LACK
Badger Foundry Company	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-08-18	-	0	316	NORS
Bayside Recycling	State Permit	priority	2	2025-09-29	-	9	274	COMP
Bora Pharmaceuticals Inc.	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-12-02	-	3	210	LACK
CHS Fairmont	Minor Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-09-22	2026-06-23	10	274	LACK
CHS Hallock	Major Amendment	priority	2	2025-09-16	-	10	287	WAIT
CHS Mankato	Minor Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-12-17	-	2	195	LACK
Circle K Terminal Group Newport	Major Amendment	priority	2	2025-10-27	2026-08-05	7	246	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Cirrus Design Corp aka Cirrus Aircraft	Major Amendment	priority	2	2025-09-22	2026-05-01	10	221	NORS
Cold Spring Granite Co - Main Campus	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-10-20	-	2	253	LACK
Covia Solutions LLC	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-09-17	2026-06-04	42	260	WAIT
Covia Solutions LLC - Ottawa Plant	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-10-24	2026-06-04	5	223	WAIT
Duluth Energy Systems	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2026-01-08	-	4	173	NORS
Gopher Resource LLC	Major Amendment	priority	2	2025-07-28	-	22	337	LACK; COMP
ME Global Inc	Major Amendment	priority	2	2025-07-01	2026-02-03	13	217	NORS
Mankato Energy Center	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-12-23	-	8	189	LACK
Mayo Clinic Hospital - Saint Mary's Campus	Minor Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-10-08	2026-06-29	2	264	LACK
Minnesota Soybean Processors - Brewster	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-09-24	-	2	279	LACK
Moorhead city of - Air Curtain Incinerator	Part 70 Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-07-03	-	14	362	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
New Ulm Steel & Recycling Inc	State Permit	non-priority	2	2025-09-30	-	8	273	COMP
Northland Aluminum Products	Minor Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-12-01	-	16	211	LACK
Northshore Mining Co - Silver Bay	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-12-23	-	23	189	LACK
POET Biorefining - Bingham Lake	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2026-01-15	-	22	166	LACK
POET Biorefining Glenville LLC	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-10-30	-	6	243	LACK
Plato Woodwork	Minor Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-07-17	2026-03-10	1	236	LACK
Plymold	Moderate Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-11-10	-	8	232	LACK
Sanimax USA Inc	Administrative Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-09-29	-	2	274	LACK
Sofidel America - Duluth	Minor Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-08-01	2026-05-27	6	299	LACK
United States Steel Corp - Keetac	Major Amendment	priority	2	2025-12-18	2026-06-29	12	193	WAIT; CHRG
Valero Renewable Fuels Co LLC - Welcome Plant	Major Amendment	non-priority	2	2025-10-27	2026-06-03	42	219	NORS
Veolia WTS Solutions USA Inc	Administrative	non-priority	2	2026-01-22	-	5	159	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
	Amend ment							
Viking Gas Transmission - Milaca Station 2217	Part 70 Reissua nce	non-priority	2	2025-11-05	2026-07-29	30	237	LACK
Viking Gas Transmission Co - Ada Compressor Station	Adminis trative Amend ment	non-priority	2	2025-09-11	-	6	292	LACK
Viking Gas Transmission Co - Frazee Compressor Station	Adminis trative Amend ment	non-priority	2	2025-09-11	-	6	292	LACK
Xcel Energy - Sherburne County Generating Plant	Adminis trative Amend ment	non-priority	2	2025-07-02	-	0	363	LACK

Land Permits

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Al-Corn Clean Fuel LLC	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-18	-	4	194	LACK
Cook County Transfer Station Grand Marais	Permit Issuance	priority	2	2025-07-01	2026-01-26	43	209	NORS
East Side Oil Co. Recycling Division	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-10-09	-	NA	264	LACK
East Side Oil Recycling Division	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-10-09	-	NA	264	LACK
Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend LLC - St Paul	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2026-01-05	-	57	176	LACKI
Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend Refinery	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2025-07-08	-	NA	357	PBLC
New Page - Duluth Paper Mill	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2025-08-21	2026-02-06	NA	169	NORS
Rapid Container Transfer Station	Permit Issuance	priority	2	2025-09-02	-	NA	301	CHRG
Valley Demo & Recycling LLC	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	2025-08-11	-	157	323	LACK

Water Permits

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Adam Ellingsberg Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-27	-	189	154	LACK
Albert Lea WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2025-10-03	2026-06-01	38	241	NORS
Amrize Nelson Plant	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	2026-01-15	-	NA	166	NORS
Anchor Glass Container Corp	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-09-02	-	3	301	NORS
Audubon Development WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2025-11-07	2026-05-20	5	194	NORS
BC Calf Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-27	-	185	154	LACK
Bagley Livestock Exchange	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-11-06	-	NA	236	WAIT
Becker Farms - Sec 21	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-23	2026-08-18	204	189	LACK
Bemidji WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-09-22	-	16	281	NORS
Black Oak Ranch Inc	Coverage	non-	2	2026-01-27	2026-07-21	7	154	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
	Issuance	priority						
Brad & Ryan Lonneman	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-27	-	64	154	LACK
Breckenridge WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-11-04	-	16	238	NORS
Brian & Jean Millmann Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-15	2026-08-18	180	166	LACK
Brownsdale WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-14	-	32	320	NORS
Bullerman Livestock & Grain, LLC. - Leon's	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-16	2026-06-23	37	189	LACK
Callaway WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-25	-	4	309	NORS
Calumet Reclamation Company	Permit Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-04	-	NA	330	NORS
Canterbury Park	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-31	-	236	181	LACK
CelluComp	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-10-03	2026-06-01	48	241	NORS

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Clayview Dairy Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-08	2026-06-22	130	165	LACK
Clearwater Forest LLC	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-25	2026-09-01	21	309	NORS
Comstock WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2025-10-17	-	95	256	NORS
DairyRidge Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-10	2026-08-05	28	202	LACK
Delft Sanitary District WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-25	-	11	309	NORS
Detroit Lakes Water Reclamation Facility	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	2025-10-20	-	30	253	NORS
Dwayne Stiernagle Farm	Coverage Issuance	priority	2	2026-01-22	-	187	159	LACK
Dylan Davis Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-23	2026-06-10	132	169	LACK
Eagle Vista Estates 2	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-07-30	2026-06-01	20	306	NORS
Elk River WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-11-20	-	48	222	NORS

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Elmendorf Hutterian Brethren lnc	Permit Issuance	priority	2	2025-09-05	-	24	298	NORS
Elwood Heldt Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-17	2026-05-28	128	162	LACK
Evergreen Townhome Association	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-09-08	-	53	295	NORS
Fairmont WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-11-25	-	50	217	NORS
Farmco Supply LLP - Sec 5	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-30	2026-08-24	160	151	LACK
Farms of Lake Elmo WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-07-29	2026-07-14	15	336	NORS
Flohrs Finishing	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-20	-	NA	161	LACK
G & B Hog Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-28	-	202	153	LACK
Green & Yellow Acres	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-21	-	195	160	LACK
Green Feedlots LLP	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-30	2026-07-01	109	151	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Gustafson Farms LLC	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-28	-	194	153	LACK
High Island Dairy LLC	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-24	2026-05-26	107	153	LACK
Intervet dba Merck Animal Health	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-09-11	2026-07-01	43	292	NORS
J & S Dairy Inc	Coverage Issuance	priority	2	2025-11-07	2026-04-29	54	173	LACK
J&B Meyer Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-26	-	190	155	LACK
Jared Schiller Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-08	2026-08-10	10	204	LACK
Jeff Davis Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-17	2026-05-18	113	152	LACK
Jim & Becky Masching Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-07	2026-06-17	125	161	LACK
K&S Poultry and Meats	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-10-15	-	NA	258	WAIT
Ken Winsel Farm Sec 22	Coverage	non-	2	2026-01-23	-	69	158	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
	Issuance	priority						
Kost Materials	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-27	2026-08-05	NA	307	NORS
Kraig Krienke Farm	Permit Issuance	priority	2	2025-10-29	-	NA	244	LACK
Lax-Pietig Dairy	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-08	2026-08-12	172	173	WAIT
Linwood Terrace	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-11	2026-08-01	15	323	NORS
Loewe - Swine Site	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-26	-	NA	155	LACK
Loren Schmidgall Farm - Site 1	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-28	2026-07-01	111	153	LACK
Loren Schmidgall Farms - Site 2	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-28	2026-07-01	111	153	LACK
Luke Scherger	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-27	2026-08-18	321	307	LACK
Lukes Brothers Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-20	2026-07-15	128	161	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Matthew & JoEllen Voxland Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-10-23	2026-04-07	118	166	LACK
Maynard WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-11-07	-	25	235	NORS
Melrose WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-10-30	-	39	243	NORS
Met Council - Rogers WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-09-24	-	8	279	NORS
Neal Johnson Farm - Peris Farm 1	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-28	-	68	153	LACK
North Zumbro Sanitary Sewer District WWTF	Permit Issuance	priority	2	2025-07-02	2026-06-22	44	355	NORS
Northern Plains Dairy LLP	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-24	2026-05-29	107	156	LACK
Northern Township WWTP 2	Permit Issuance	priority	2	2025-09-15	-	38	288	WAIT
Nu-Tek BioSciences LLC	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-07-14	2026-06-01	NA	322	NORS
Owatonna WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-01	-	8	211	NORS

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Patrick Gerken Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-26	-	NA	155	LACK
Perkins Farms	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-26	-	186	155	LACK
Peter W Hartwig Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-21	-	183	160	WAIT
Ramsey RMX, Minneapolis RMX, St Paul RMX	Coverage Change	non-priority	2	2025-07-16	-	NA	349	NORS
Revier Feedlot Inc	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-07-29	2026-02-01	14	187	LACK
Riverview LLP - West River Dairy	Permit Issuance	priority	2	2025-12-12	2026-06-23	53	193	PBLC
Robert Toelle Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-12	2026-07-27	22	169	LACK
Roger R Mulder Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-09	2026-08-19	13	172	LACK
Saint Francis WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-11	-	3	323	NORS
Saint Leo WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-11-20	-	14	222	NORS

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Sanctuary WWTP	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	2025-12-30	2026-07-01	10	182	NORS
Sappi Cloquet LLC	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-04	2026-08-01	9	330	NORS
Sayles Site	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-10-10	-	298	263	LACK
Sno Pac Foods Inc	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-18	-	43	316	NORS
Son D Farms Wilmont Finishers (Location 11)	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-17	2026-07-27	35	195	LACK
Sorg Cattle Co.	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-08	-	NA	204	COMP
Spring Prairie Colony	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-02	-	203	179	WAIT
TDL Farms - Home Site	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-29	2026-07-08	118	152	LACK
TDL Farms LLP - Guse Site	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-29	2026-07-08	118	152	LACK
Tii Gavo on Big Marine Lake WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2026-01-26	2026-07-01	1	155	NORS

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Tim Donkers Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-27	-	188	154	LACK
Tim Harmening Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-15	2026-07-29	158	166	LACK
Tim and Dave Schieffert - New Site	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-20	2026-06-30	121	161	LACK
Tim and Dave Schieffert - Old Site	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-20	2026-06-30	121	161	LACK
Todd Arduser Farm	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-08	2026-06-12	118	155	WAIT
Tower/Breitung WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	2025-07-02	2026-03-17	-51	258	NORS
Tri-M Farms Inc - Sec 22	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-21	-	NA	160	WAIT
VZ Hogs LLP - Sow Site 1	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-20	2026-08-25	178	161	LACK
Valley Pork LLP	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-26	-	36	155	LACK
Van Zuilen Enterprises - Knott Farms	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-08-29	2026-03-24	166	207	LACK

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days until determined complete	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Virginia WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-09-30	-	13	273	NORS
White Rock Dairy	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-14	2026-08-12	159	167	LACK
Winter Creek Farms - 440th Ave	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-19	2026-06-30	154	193	LACK
Winter Creek Farms - Co Rd 1	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	2025-12-19	2026-06-30	154	193	LACK
Worthington WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2025-11-03	-	18	239	NORS
YMCA of the North Camp Gathering Pines	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	2026-01-27	-	0	154	NORS

Appendix C

This Appendix includes additional data not required in statute that shows a broader scope of the permit related work at the MPCA.

Total number of applications received, and permits issued across all media types, for the last five fiscal years.

Year	Number of permits issued	Number of applications received	Percent of permits issued
FY 2022	530	586	90%
FY 2023	1316	1362	97%
FY 2024	730	327	223%
FY 2025	390	542	72%
FY 2026	1081	1073	101%

Tier 1 and Tier 2 permit applications, and their status, from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Tier	Priority	Received	Withdrawn	Returned	Determined Complete	Issued (total)	Issued (within goal)	Issued (missed goal)	% issued within goal*	Pending (total)	Pending (within goal)	Pending (missed goal)
1	non-priority	114	6	0	108	78	70	8	73%	21	12	9
1	priority	2247	7	0	2240	2210	2202	8	99%	23	21	2
2	non-priority	1082	47	11	1024	538	511	27	73%	423	328	95
2	priority	158	17	6	135	55	44	11	46%	57	40	17
Total	-	3601	77	17	3507	2881	2827	54	91%	524	401	123

*% issued within goal: includes applications received minus those withdrawn, returned, and pending still within 90-and 150-/210-day timeliness goal. NOTE: The 210-day Tier 2 goal calculations for municipal wastewater permits were first introduced in the FY2018 Annual Permitting Efficiency Report.

Permit applications received, by tier, environmental media, and priority status, in FY2026. Priority refers to construction-related permits and non-priority refers to non-construction-related applications.

Media	Priority	Non-priority	Total
Tier 1 Air Permits	0	79	79
Tier 1 Land Permits	0	25	25
Tier 1 Water Permits	2240	4	2244
Tier 1 Total	2240	108	2348
Tier 2 Air Permits	31	96	127
Tier 2 Land Permits	14	10	24
Tier 2 Water Permits	90	918	1008
Tier 2 Total	135	1024	1159
Grand Total	2375	1132	3507

This view does not count such activities as permit/coverage terminations, notifications, pre-applications, confidentiality determinations, fee-processing activities, closure orders, and some types of registrations and modifications for certain environmental permitting programs, or applications where it was determined that no permit is required are not counted (Appendix C). Applications that were withdrawn or returned, and those for which permits were denied, are included in this table.

Tier 1 permit timeliness, by environmental media, in FY2026.*

Media	Issued <= 90	Issued > 90	Pending <= 90	Pending > 90	Total
Priority Water Permits	2202	8	21	2	2233
Non-priority Air Permits	63	2	7	1	73
Non-priority Land Permits	4	6	4	8	22
Non-priority Water Permits	3	0	1	0	4
Total	2272	16	33	11	2332

*count of all legislative Tier 1 applications (those not requiring individualized action and having a 90-day issuance goal) received during FY 2026 by environmental media and legislative priority status (where priority refers to construction-related permits and non-priority refers to non-construction-related applications). Permit applications as either issued or pending, and it is noted whether the permits were issued within the 90-day goal. For pending applications, time is calculated from the application receipt date to the lesser of today's date or the end of the reporting period (FY 2026).

This table does not include permit applications that were terminated, returned, denied, or withdrawn.