

FFY2013 Self-Assessment

EPA Region 5 and MPCA Joint Priorities

(FFY2013 Report in red text, EPA responses in green)

Air Quality Permitting

October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2016 (FFY 2013-2016)

FFY 2013 REPORT

Objective:

Reduce the MPCA's renewal backlog

Statement of Environmental Problem/Issue:

The MPCA implements the requirements of Title V of the Clean Air Act through its combined construction and operating permits program, which was approved by EPA on December 4, 2001 (66 Fed Reg 62967). Through regular program interactions, our annual planning process, and periodic program reviews, EPA and MPCA discuss program progress and implementation issues. MPCA and EPA agree that there is a large backlog of Title V renewal applications. EPA and MPCA seek to work jointly to significantly increase issuance of Title V operating permit renewals, thereby reducing MPCA's renewal backlog.

Actions to be accomplished or Progress Update:

1. MPCA will maintain a minimum number of FTEs to processing Title V permit actions. A Title V action is a reissuance, a first time Title V permit for a new facility or a facility moving from a state permit to a Title V permit. The MPCA will also look for ways to increase the minimum number of staff working on Title V actions.
2. EPA and MPCA will work to identify areas to assist the permit program, as a whole, to improve efficiency. EPA and MPCA will select 3-4 permit processing impediments per year (continuing throughout the term of the EnPPA) to investigate possible solutions. The impediments to work on will be identified no later than April 1 of each year. In order to maximize MPCA staff time to write permits EPA Region 5 staff will take the lead in researching the impediments and proposing possible solutions. As necessary, EPA will elevate issues internally for resolution.
3. By December 31, 2013 the MPCA will issue 20 Title V actions.
4. By December 31, 2014 the MPCA will issue an additional 25 Title V actions.
5. By December 31, 2015 the MPCA will issue an additional 25 Title V actions.
6. By December 31, 2016 the MPCA will issue an additional 30 Title V actions.
7. By December 31, 2017 the MPCA will issue an additional 30 Title V actions.
8. Thereafter, MPCA will continue to issue Title V actions with the goal of continuing to reduce the backlog of pending Title V applications.

FFY 2013 Report:

1. MPCA currently has six (6) FTEs working exclusively on Title V permit actions. A seventh FTE will be added in November 2013. Because of Minnesota's combined operating and construction permit program, Title V permit actions are also occasionally processed by staff not assigned exclusively to Title V permit (e.g., a Title V reissuance will sometimes be done in conjunction with a construction project, provided the additional time to process the reissuance will not pose a problem for the source's construction schedule). In addition, since October 1, 2012, nine FTEs have been hired to write construction permits; as part of their new-staff training, each of these FTEs processes 2-3 Title V permit actions.
2. Two projects have been identified with EPA Region V staff (once-in-always-in issues for small coating operations which are potentially subject to MACT standards and pollution control projects). We plan to further discuss these with EPA staff during our Program Evaluation meetings on November 5-6, 2013.
3. From October 1, 2012, through September 30, 2013, 38 Title V permit actions were issued (31 reissued, and 7 first-time part 70 permits). Four more are anticipated to be issued by December 31, 2013, for a total of 42.

Additional information:

For more information on Air Quality Permitting contact:

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At EPA Region 5: Genevieve Damico, 312- 353-4761, Damico.Genevieve@epa.gov

Environmental Justice and Urban Air Quality

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2016 (FFY 2013-2016)

FFY 2013 REPORT

Minnesota Context:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) analysis of air quality information, including air monitoring data, air emissions data, air modeling data and risk modeling data, show two significant findings. The first finding is that a significant portion of Minnesota's air pollution comes from on-road mobile sources, off-road mobile sources and small stationary sources. The second finding is that locations in Minnesota with higher population densities, including Rochester and the core cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, have higher levels of air pollution and experience higher resulting health risks from air pollution.

Within the densely populated urban areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul are communities of color, including Native American communities, and communities with lower economic status. Minnesota Department of Health data shows these communities have higher rates of adverse health outcomes with potential air pollution exposure components, such as asthma prevalence, asthma hospitalizations and cardiovascular hospitalizations. The Minnesota Department of Health reports cancer rates at the county level and has not analyzed cancer rates for the core cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul or Rochester.

The MPCA has recently experienced significant community opposition during permitting decisions and environmental review decisions. In many of these cases, the emissions from the point source seeking the permit were small and well controlled. In addition, the MPCA's review found that the emissions would not likely create additional health risks, either individually or on a cumulative basis, and that mobile sources and small stationary sources were the major sources of air pollution in the area. The community comments for these projects centered on community characteristics such as asthma rates, cancer rates and environment justice concerns. A common characteristic of all of these projects is the lack of trust between the community and the MPCA regarding the major sources of air pollution, the potential health risks from point sources and the connection between point source air pollution and health disparities.

To begin addressing the fair treatment pillar of environmental justice, the MPCA applied for a competitive grant under the Community Scale Air Toxics Grant process. The grant sought funding to develop new monitoring techniques for air toxics of concern in South Minneapolis, an area with environmental justice concerns, and engage the community in the deployment of the monitors and evaluating the results of the monitoring. This grant is not part of Minnesota's PPG. However, the MPCA recognizes this important environmental justice work in the context of the state and federal relationship and seeks to acknowledge the environmental commitments embodied in the PPA with the specific commitments contained in the Community Scale Air Toxics Grant.

Additionally, in a fall 2012 environmental review for a permit application, the MPCA identified a potential modeled exceedance of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in North Minneapolis. The potential modeled violation was not caused by the permit under review and the MPCA committed to deploy a new PM_{2.5} monitor near the potential modeled exceedance, work with nearby permitted sources to improve PM_{2.5} controls in the area and maintain engagement with the community to keep them informed of new data and information. The initial discussions with the community indicates that the commitment in North Minneapolis will include broader discussions of the nature of air pollution in the area, significant sources of air pollution for the area and potential reduction options available.

This joint priority supports EPA's Environmental Justice Plan 2014, specifically under Supporting Community-Based Action Programs section 1 (advance environmental justice principles by building strong state partnerships with the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS)) and section 3.4 (build on and leverage Agency efforts to promote greater coordination in the use of programs and tools that support community empowerment). The joint priority also supports Section 4 Tools Development Areas, Strategy 5 which is intended to build and strengthen technical capacity of community-based organizations and community EJ and health leaders to address environmental health disparities and environmental sustainability issues by building community capacity to address asthma disparities and increase citizen participation in science and decisions.

Recognizing that environmental justice and urban air quality are important to both agencies, these activities will offer the opportunity to address these issues as they arise. Acknowledging that a variety of statewide issues may warrant support during the state's air quality planning, permitting and enforcement efforts, USEPA is prepared to support the state when they occur. For example, air toxics and asthma community concerns may need to be explained to the community, and support and assistance given to MPCA. USEPA will participate in planning meetings and outreach efforts as well as attend meetings to explain risk and public health concepts as well as share the results of studies.

On an annual basis, MPCA and EPA Region 5 program leadership will jointly identify the specific programs to involve in the community engagement efforts in South and North Minneapolis to provide a coordinated and effective deployment of each agency's air quality experts. Depending on the needs of the community and the grant progression, these experts may be air monitoring staff, air toxics staff, risk assessment staff, or risk communication staff.

Joint Priority Elements:

The MPCA and EPA Region 5 seek to work jointly in the following areas over the duration of this PPA and the Community Scale Air Toxics Grant.

- 1) The MPCA will meet all grant commitments as described in the Community Scale Air Toxics grant for the development of air monitoring techniques, the deployment of additional monitors and community engagement.
- 2) The MPCA will engage communities in areas where there are environmental justice concerns in South Minneapolis and Northern Minneapolis, to address concerns about air pollution, health risks, and air pollution sources and seek to build better trust and communication between community members and the MPCA.
- 3) The MPCA will engage other communities in areas where there are environmental justice concerns related to air pollution in other parts of Minnesota as resources allow.
- 4) EPA Region 5 Air Monitoring Program, Air Toxics Program, and Environmental Justice Program will participate in the community engagement efforts of the MPCA in North and South Minneapolis to build and strengthen technical capacity of community-based organizations and community environmental justice and health leaders to address environmental health disparities and environmental sustainability issues." (Plan EJ 2014, Science Tool Development Implementation Strategy 5)
- 5) On an annual basis, MPCA and EPA Region 5 program leadership will jointly identify the specific programs to involve in the community engagement efforts in South and North Minneapolis, or other locations in Minnesota, to provide a coordinated and effective deployment of each

agency's air quality experts. Depending on the needs of the community and the grant progression, these experts may be air monitoring staff, air toxics staff, risk assessment staff, or risk communication staff.

- 6) In addition to building and strengthening technical capacity of communities, the MPCA and EPA Region 5 agree to work collaboratively to build trust between the communities of North and South Minneapolis, or other locations in Minnesota, and the environmental agencies to improve the understanding of air pollution sources and risks as well as identify common ground for emission reduction opportunities.
- 7) EPA Region 5 Asthma Program will coordinate with relevant stakeholders (including the Minnesota Department of Health, American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest, and the Minnesota Asthma Coalition) to provide community outreach, education, and resources about comprehensive asthma management and improve their understanding of asthma associated with indoor and outdoor air quality and other common triggers.

FFY 2013 Report:

During FFY 2013, the MPCA significantly enhanced its efforts to address environmental justice issues, especially related to air quality in the urban area of the Twin Cities.

To improve efforts to strive for environmental justice issues in general, the MPCA renewed its EJ policy, formed a Commissioner-led EJ Steering Team, included an EJ goal in our 2013-2017 Strategic Plan, committed to integrate EJ into our daily work and dedicated a full-time senior staff person to coordinate EJ issues. In January 2013, agency managers were trained by EPA Region 5 on EJ principles and practices.

At the request of EJ advocates, the MPCA initiated quarterly dialogues between the EJ Steering Team and the EJ community. The first meeting was held in North Minneapolis on June 14th, the second in South Minneapolis on October 1. In addition, the MPCA's EJ coordinator held numerous meetings with individuals and small groups and attended event in EJ communities in order to understand concerns, learn about capacity-building needs and build relationships.

As a first step to improving EJ integration into the MPCA's day-to-day work, four program areas at the MPCA were identified to pilot EJ integration. One of the 4 pilot areas selected included improving urban air quality. The MPCA created a leadership steering team to oversee implementation this joint priority with EPA and to ensure coordination of the pilot project.

During 2013, specific work on urban air quality and environmental justice included:

Monitoring

"Roving Monitor" With funding from the Minnesota Legislature, the MPCA initiated short-term localized monitoring of air toxics, PM 2.5 and metals in the Little Earth residential area of South Minneapolis, a Native American housing community. As directed by the legislature, this monitor will be relocated to a different area of potential EJ concern every 3 months, allowing for gathering data from up to 8 sites over a 2-year period. The results will be compared to ongoing monitoring site data and shared with community members shortly after the monitoring period.

North Minneapolis PM 2.5 Monitoring The MPCA installed a PM 2.5 monitor in an industrial area of North Minneapolis with EJ concerns. This monitor will operate for up to 2 years. Preliminary findings after six months of monitoring were analyzed and shared with the community; more robust outreach is planned following the first full year of monitoring in early 2014.

PAH Monitoring With EPA Community-Scale Air Toxics grant funding, the MPCA, Minnesota Department of Health and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources began a two-year study to monitor polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at about 16 sites in an area of South Minneapolis of potential concern for environmental justice. The siting of the monitors included community engagement efforts. No results were available in 2013.

Air Permitting in South Minneapolis

A 2008 state law requires the MPCA to analyze and consider cumulative levels and effects of past and current pollution before a permit may be located in a specific area of South Minneapolis. This was enacted due to concerns about environmental justice. With stakeholder input, the MPCA developed a process for conducting this analysis as well as protocol for enhanced public outreach. In FFY 2013, the MPCA concluded work on an air permit for boilers and emergency generators at a hospital in the area.

MPCA and Minnesota Department of Health Joint Initiative of Respiratory Disease

MPDA and MDH sought funding and received funding from the State legislature for a joint initiative related to reduce the burden of air pollution on chronic respiratory disease in densely populated areas. This two-year project will identify strategies for each agency and other partners to implement to reduce air-pollution related disease. The work will also include development of tools and resources for local government and others to support their work.

Ramsey County Community Health Improvement Planning

MPCA staff participated in a 9-month process to develop a 5-year plan strategy to improve health in Minnesota's second most populated county, which includes St. Paul. While this effort addressed a wide variety of health factors, MPCA staff contributed expertise and ideas related to reducing air pollution to improve health.

Much of the work above was initiated in FFY 2013 or in the previous 2-3 years. As the MPCA continues to develop its EJ work, the MPCA looks forward to continued collaboration with the EPA and community to build on these efforts.

EPA Comments:

In October 2013, Region 5 staff provided training to MPCA representatives on EJ policies and EJView. MPCA and Region 5 have initiated quarterly conference calls to discuss progress of the joint priority and identify any needs/tasks that Region 5 may provide assistance with.

Additional information:

For more information on the Air Toxic Joint Priority, contact:

At MPCA, Frank Kohlasch at 651-757-2500 or frank.kohlasch@state.mn.us;

At EPA Region 5, Carlton Nash (312) 692-2543 or nash.carlton@epa.gov

Impaired Waters

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2016 (FFY 2013-2016)

FFY 2013 REPORT

Statement of Environmental Problem/Issue:

Based on Minnesota's draft 2012 303(d) impaired waters list, there are 2,575 impairments on 1028 lakes and 349 rivers. The final 2012 list has not been submitted to date due to contested cases and resolutions of public comments. Minnesota is committed to using the impaired waters approach to restore water bodies to meeting their designated uses, while at the same time maintaining those waters that are meeting designated uses.

The MPCA will continue to work on its impaired waters approach with stakeholders through the Clean Water Council (see program development section below), with other state agencies through the Clean Water Fund Interagency Coordination Team and its subteams, and while working with Region 5 to meet the commitments set out in 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. This revision of the joint priority addresses these mutual efforts over the next four years.

This joint priority is broken into three components: **Program Development, Total Maximum Daily Load Studies (TMDLs), and Implementation.** Assessment and impaired waters listing activities are addressed in the Monitoring and Assessment shared priority section of this report.

MPCA Strategy: Restore the chemical, physical and biological integrity of Minnesota lakes, streams, and wetlands that do not support designated uses.

EPA Strategy: Improve water quality conditions in impaired watersheds and restore impaired waterbodies to achieve designated uses.

Program Development Priorities:

The MPCA's program development activities are driven in large part by Minnesota's Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA). Signed into law on June 2, 2006, the purpose of the law is "to provide authority, direction and resources to protect and restore the state's surface waters, as required by section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act". (MN statutes, chapter 114D)

Following passage of the CWLA, stakeholders wanted to ensure a long-term source of sustainable funding for restoring and protecting Minnesota's waters. A further campaign with additional stakeholders resulted in a ballot initiative to amend Minnesota's Constitution. On November 4, 2008, Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to *protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.*

The Amendment increased Minnesota's sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales, starting July 1, 2009, continuing through 2034. One-third of those funds are dedicated to a Clean Water Fund (CWF) to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater, with at least five percent of the fund targeted to protect drinking water sources. When passed, it was explicitly stated that these funds are to supplement, not supplant, existing funding for state agencies.

The MPCA received \$51.16M for the FY2010-11 biennium from the newly-created CWF. Activities funded included significantly enhanced monitoring, TMDL and protection strategy development, and implementation. For the FY2012-13 biennium, the MPCA received 47.7 M for these activities.

To continue steady progress with the implementation of our watershed approach (see next section below), the MPCA will continue to work closely with other Minnesota state agencies with water programs supported by the Clean Water Fund, along with the Clean Water Council, which provides funding recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

MPCA Program Priorities for FFY 2013-2016:

1 Implement Statewide Watershed Approach to prioritize and integrate Monitoring and Assessment, TMDL, and Restoration and Protection Activities

To meet its responsibility to develop plans to restore impaired waters and protect waters from becoming impaired, the MPCA has developed a Watershed Approach, a holistic strategy through which the state's 81 major watersheds scale (i.e. primarily 8-digit level HUCs, with some exceptions) are monitored and TMDLs and protection plans are developed into one Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAP) Report for each watershed. The WRAPS are developed on a repeating, 10-year schedule.

The Watershed Approach provides for better coordination between federal and state government and local partners, including watershed districts, consultants, non-profit groups, and citizens, by using the element of common interest – the health of the watershed – as its focal point. More information on The Watershed Approach can be found in the report submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency entitled, [Minnesota's Water Quality Strategy](#).

The Watershed approach is already increasing the efficiency and predictability of our work by integrating monitoring and assessment, TMDLs, and protection activities. This will be incorporated into the water plans of local government (watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts, counties and cities) that will develop and implement the detailed activities to implement the reductions called for in the WRAP Report. Implementation funding for local implementers will be primarily provided by Minnesota's Board of Water & Soil Resources for nonpoint-related activities, and the Public Facilities Authority for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects.

FFY 2013 Report:

The 2013 Minnesota Legislature defined Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) in statute as follows:

Sec.12. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 114D.15, is amended by adding a Subdivision to read:

Subd.13. Watershed restoration and protection strategy or WRAPS. "Watershed restoration and protection strategy" or "WRAPS" means a document summarizing scientific studies of a major watershed no larger than a hydrologic unit code 8 including the physical, chemical, and biological assessment of the water quality of the watershed; identification of impairments and water bodies in need of protection; identification of biotic stressors and sources of pollution, both point and nonpoint; TMDL's for the impairments; and an implementation table containing strategies and actions designed to achieve and maintain water quality standards and goals.

The legislature further prescribed content for WRAPS as follows:

Sec. 13. [114D.26] WATERSHED RESTORATION AND PROTECTION STRATEGIES.

Subd. 1. Contents. The Pollution Control Agency shall develop watershed restoration and protection strategies. To ensure effectiveness and accountability in meeting the goals of this chapter, each WRAPS shall:

- (1) identify impaired waters and waters in need of protection;
- (2) identify biotic stressors causing impairments or threats to water quality;
- (3) summarize watershed modeling outputs and resulting pollution load allocations, wasteload allocations, and priority areas for targeting actions to improve water quality;
- (4) identify point sources of pollution for which a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit is required under section 115.03;
- (5) identify nonpoint sources of pollution for which a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit is not required under section 115.03, with sufficient specificity to prioritize and geographically locate watershed restoration and protection actions;
- (6) describe the current pollution loading and load reduction needed for each source or source category to meet water quality standards and goals, including wasteload and load allocations from TMDL's;
- (7) contain a plan for ongoing water quality monitoring to fill data gaps, determine changing conditions, and gauge implementation effectiveness; and
- (8) contain an implementation table of strategies and actions that are capable of cumulatively achieving needed pollution load reductions for point and nonpoint sources, including:
 - (i) water quality parameters of concern;
 - (ii) current water quality conditions;
 - (iii) water quality goals and targets by parameter of concern;
 - (iv) strategies and actions by parameter of concern and the scale of adoptions needed for each;
 - (v) a timeline for achievement of water quality targets;
 - (vi) the governmental units with primary responsibility for implementing each watershed restoration or protection strategy; and
 - (vii) a timeline and interim milestones for achievement of watershed restoration or protection implementation actions within ten years of strategy adoption.

Subd. 2. Reporting. Beginning July 1, 2016, and every other year thereafter, the Pollution Control Agency must report on its Web site the progress toward implementation milestones and water quality goals for all adopted TMDL's and, where available, WRAPS's.

Subd. 3. Timelines; administration. Each year, the Pollution Control Agency must complete WRAPS's for at least ten percent of the state's major watersheds. WRAPS shall be governed by the procedures for approval and notice in section 114D.25, subdivisions 2 and 4, except that WRAPS need not be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

2. Design and Implement an Effectiveness Tracking System

The CWLA's implementation policies required agencies "to establish and report outcome-based performance measures that monitor the progress and effectiveness of protection and restoration". (114D.20, subd. 3(7))

Since December 2007, the MPCA has been working with state, federal and local partners, including EPA, on a process to develop an effectiveness measurement framework. The initial phase of this project concluded in the fall of 2008 and resulted in the design of a framework that will describe progress at different scale and time periods.

The next phase of this project, which began in October, 2008, developed specific measures, a measurement tracking system, and pilot projects to evaluate the framework. To help implement this phase, the MPCA volunteered to participate in an EPA pilot on program effectiveness. EPA provided a consultant to assist the MPCA and its partner agencies over two years to help facilitate the process.

In February 2012, Minnesota agencies released their first collaborative report. It is designed to help clarify connections between Clean Water Funds invested, actions taken and outcomes achieved in FY2010-2011. Eighteen measures in the report provide a snapshot of how Clean Water Fund dollars are being spent and what progress has been made. The measures are organized into three sections: investment, surface water quality, and drinking water protection. Each measure has detailed status ranking and trend information.

Overall, the report shows the state is on track with its investments, though challenges remain. Of the 18 measures, status and trends vary; six measures showed improving trends, 11 showed no trend or were too early to assess, and one showed a slightly declining trend.

It is important to note that the report does not include information on other ongoing water-related work as it would be impossible to measure everything in one report or project. This report is the beginning of what is to come over the next 25 years in outcome-based water quality data and information.

The FY2010-2011 final report, the summary document and the metadata sheets can be found on [Minnesota's Legacy website: http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/clean-water-fund](http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/clean-water-fund)

FFY 2013 Report:

A new FY 2012 -2013 Report will be released in January of 2014. This report will have two more years of data to start to show trends on key measures. In addition, since the last report was released, the Interagency Team has been working to develop two new areas of measures: key stressor or pressure measures to help put our other measures in context over time and social measures to measure how well our environmental work is connecting to Minnesotan's understanding of water quality issues and changes of behavior over time. Social science has not been a strength of the team and outside experts were sought to help guide our thinking. The pressure measures will be presented in the 2014 report. More work will be necessary to integrate the social measures work with our environmental measures.

3. Develop a Watershed Data Integration System

To help track and report on effectiveness measures, among many other management needs, the MPCA is developing an information management system, called the Watershed Data Integration Project (WDIP), for elements of its watershed programs including: assessment and monitoring; administrative and financial; geospatial data and information; and TMDL development and implementation and protection efforts. When fully implemented, the system will integrate and enhance existing and new databases, and connect them through an information portal. A business object model was completed for the project in 2007 and the initial design of system requirements was completed at the end of FFY09.

Because of support from the Clean Water Fund, the MPCA continues to make progress with the WDIP. Phase 3 of WDIP, to be completed in June 2013, undertakes a variety of data integration and stabilization initiatives. These are vital to building a foundation for future progress in the WDIP in order to provide access to water quality data, transparency and accountability for watershed activities. Right now WDIP has 12 IT projects. Three are completed, six are active and three are pending.

Outcomes from the completed projects include:

- Overall data clean-up that allowed the watershed webpages to accurately display monitoring, assessment and implementation activities
- Internal water body search tool - access via the Launchpad, or at http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/search_more.cfm (map tab)
- External data retrieval tool for accessing monitoring and assessment information on water bodies. <http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/datasearch/waterSearch.cfm>
- Electronic documentation of interagency measures and outcomes

More than 100 staff and management play an integral part in the success of this on-going effort, participating in roles ranging from project sponsors and subject matter experts, to IT analysts and developers. For further information, go to: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/watershed-data-integration-project.html>

EPA will be looking for potential transferability of what is accomplished here to other states.

FFY 2013 Report:

The 2013 Minnesota Legislature awarded additional funding to the MPCA to continue work on integrating internal data systems that will provide better data capture, tracking and reporting for the watershed approach. The focus of WDIP work for the next two years of funding is to develop a better water assessment database and create an IBI (Index of Biological Integrity) database, in addition to the broader effort of developing a more robust watershed data tracking system that will enable greater transparency and reporting flexibility within the MPCA and on our Website.

The timing of this work aligns with a larger MPCA undertaking to replace the agency's primary data system (Delta.) This project is scheduled for the next two years and will likely involve additional enhancements into the future to meet all the agency's needs. Many of the WDIP goals can be met through the new agency data system (Tempo360), and there is currently extensive review occurring to assess the functionality of the new system in relation to the expected WDIP deliverables. However, WDIP continues to work on developing deliverables that can either be migrated into the new data system or easily linked.

In the past quarter, significant progress has been made on implementing a new reporting structure that allows for easy internal access to watershed project data. The highlight of these recent efforts was the data linkage between our watershed data system (Delta) and the state's fiscal accounting system (Swift.) This linkage now provides MPCA with real-time data (with just an overnight data refresh) on project activity milestones and project spending. Additional enhancements in the coming months will include search capabilities by date, geography, and additional impairment data.

4. Special Joint Projects with EPA

In addition to the effectiveness measures project discussed in #2 above, MPCA and EPA are working together on several nationally recognized special projects, supported in part by EPA HQ funding. Projects include the Minnehaha Creek Watershed Stormwater TMDL effort to assess BMP effectiveness, Lake Pepin TMDL Implementation Plan, and Nutrient Reduction Strategy to reduce hypoxia problems in

the Gulf of Mexico. As a member of the Hypoxia Task Force, Minnesota is developing State Level Nutrient Reduction Strategies concurrently with sister states and consistent with the Hypoxia Action Plan and EPA guidance in the Nancy Stoner memorandum titled "Working with States..." March 16, 2011. Minnesota's strategies will build on the watershed approach targeting pollutant reduction and water quality protection in each of the state's 81 HUC8 watersheds by addressing nutrient reductions needed for waters at a scale of HUC 8 and greater (ex. Minnesota River, St Croix River, and Lake Pepin) as well as downstream of Minnesota. The pollutant reduction programs that the state has established will be assessed and recommendations for programs needed to meet milestone nutrient reductions will be provided. The primary goal of these strategies will be meaningful and achievable interim nutrient load reduction to Minnesota and downstream waters. Minnesota strategies will be completed by the end of 2013, with implementation as resources are provided. Recommendations for tracking progress of nutrient reduction will be a component of the State Level Strategies.

In addition, the MPCA has partnered with EPA's Healthy Watershed Initiative to conduct a pilot project in the Snake River Watershed. We are participating with The Nature Conservancy, the Department of Natural Resources, and several local partners to develop the protection elements of our WRAP for the Snake, utilizing expertise of EPA's contractor, Cadmus Consulting, to identify priority protection areas and how to sequence protection activities in the watershed. The results of this work will also serve as a pilot to help the MPCA design its protection strategies for watersheds throughout the state.

FFY 2013 Report:

A Draft state nutrient reduction strategy has been completed and is open for public and stakeholder review until Dec 18, 2013. The strategy includes geographic priorities and sources Goals and baselines for reduction efforts and identifies needed reductions to meet milestone goals and programs to help implement those reductions at the states 3 major drainage basins. It also sets targets for reduction planning at the HUC8 level. The strategy reports that the state is on target to have River Eutrophication Standards by 2015 and calls for continued action on a nitrogen toxicity standard for Rivers. The draft strategy is available on the Nutrient Reduction Website.

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1146>

TMDL Priorities:

As of May 2012, the MPCA has received EPA approval of, 1,355 TMDLs – 239 for waters impaired by conventional pollutants and 1,096 for mercury-impaired waters. Overall, as of the 2010 approved impaired waters inventory, 66% of total TMDLs needed for conventional impairments are underway or in implementation, and 68% of TMDLs needed for toxic impairments

The MPCA's top priority is to continue to initiate eight major watershed projects per year through our watershed approach. Currently, intensive monitoring projects are completed or underway in 52% of Minnesota's watersheds, while WRAP strategies are underway in 42% of our 81 watersheds.

To continue to improve our efficiency, we are currently developing a standardized template for our WRAP Reports. We are working with local stakeholders and a consultant to create an approach that will ensure that our reduction targets, timelines, milestones, sources, and other key elements are clearly identified so that they can be effectively implemented into local water plans.

FFY 2013 Report:

A standardized WRAPS template was developed for use in all major watersheds. It can be found at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/index.html>

Implementation Priorities:

Through Clean Water Fund appropriations, implementation projects are being supported in almost every watershed in the state. Nevertheless, demand still out paces available funding. As a result, the MPCA working with BWSR and other state agencies have directed significant resources towards improving our prioritization and targeting tools to better understand where funding can have the highest impact. Targeting will be improved through LiDAR, which has been completed for the entire state, as well as through other geospatial tools. New criteria have been set in state funding programs to improve accountability and effectiveness. The MPCA looks forward to reporting progress in this area over the next three years.

FFY 2013 Report:

There were ten (10) MPCA approved Implementation Plans in FFY13.

The Clean Water Accountability Act was promulgated in 2013; specifying the content, timeline and funding priorities for developing Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). Fortunately, a new template for the WRAPS was already underway and will provide a key tool to help with the tracking for accountability and progress toward clean water. The WRAPS Report template will utilize tools and processes that are now available and cost effective to analyze the data, including: stressor identification, Hydrologic Simulation Program FORTRAN (HSPF) modeling, and spatial analysis. These tools will provide valuable information and lead to prioritization, targeting and documentation of restoration and protection strategies that were not possible a few years ago. The template will provide consistent expectations of data quality and analyses valuable to inform local planning as well as assist with prioritized targeting of implementation efforts.

Additional information:

For more information on the Impaired Waters Joint Priority, contact:

At MPCA, Doug Wetzstein at (651) 757-2819 or doug.wetzstein@state.mn.us

At EPA Region 5, Matthew Gluckman at 312-886-6089 or gluckman.matthew@epa.gov

Mining Permits

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2016 (FFY 2013-2016)

FFY 2013 REPORT

Objective:

Complete timely NPDES permitting actions for metallic mining projects in Minnesota to address outstanding environmental issues, eliminate permit backlog, and issue permit decisions for construction projects.

Statement of Problem/Issue:

Water quality permits for the metallic mining sector are critical to the protection of surface waters. These permits are often associated with economic development, are under increasing public scrutiny, and involve complex permitting situations. As a result, NPDES permits for the metallic mining sector have a higher than average reissuance backlog and permit decisions for new or expanding facilities are often delayed.

Scope:

All new, expanding and existing metallic mining operations in Minnesota needing NPDES permits.

Strategy:

Complete a workload analysis and schedule for pursuing staffing revisions; identify permit priorities and schedules; identify necessary process improvements based on past experience and implement process revisions; develop standard operating procedure(s) to expeditiously move to final permit decisions.

The Metallic Mining Joint Priority will include identification and prioritization of metallic mining permitting projects, and streamlining/improving the permitting process to assure NPDES permit decisions in a timely manner and eliminate the permit backlog over a 5 year period.

Work Load Analysis and Staffing

It is anticipated that significant additional staff resources will be needed to meet performance measures for this joint priority. The commitments in this joint priority are based on the assumption that the following activities are successfully completed:

By March 29, 2013 a work load analysis will be developed – MPCA lead. The work load analysis will include projections necessary to eliminate the metallic mining permit backlog to zero by July 1, 2018 and assure timely permit decisions for new construction (new and expanded mines) projects. The work load analysis will include known significant barriers to permit issuance and resources needed to address these barriers.

By April 30, 2013, EPA and MPCA will each independently develop staffing initiatives that reflect the work load analysis and meet the commitments of the joint priority.

By June 30, 2013, EPA and MPCA will each independently achieve approval of staffing initiatives.

By September 30, EPA and MPCA will complete hiring or assignment of staff identified in the respective staffing initiatives.

By December 31, 2013, newly assigned EPA and MPCA staffs will complete permit writer training and other training, as appropriate to achieve a level of expertise needed to issue metallic mining permits.

Permit Project Prioritization and Scheduling

By April 1, 2013 MPCA and EPA will develop a Metallic Mining Permit Priority List that will focus staff resources on critical construction projects and permit reissuances necessary to eliminate the permit backlog by July 1, 2018 (5 years). The Priority List will include tiered goals and performance measures based on staffing (fewer projects under current staffing levels and more projects under the level identified in the staffing initiatives). Assuming the scope including the 25 existing metallic mining permits identified below, performance measures should achieve an average of 1) work on 2 new permits, 2) complete 5 permit modifications, and 3) complete 5 permit reissuances per year over the next 5 years to achieve a 20% backlog reduction per year and issue construction permits. This prioritization and schedule will be evaluated and updated by EPA and MPCA by October 1, 2013 and annually thereafter.

MPCA will lead the development of the Metallic Mining Permit Priority List and proposed schedule for completing each of the active permitting projects. The initial Metallic Mining Permit Priority List is provided below and will be updated every 12 months. Permit project schedules will be reviewed and revised monthly via MPCA/EPA conference calls.

Metallic Mining Permit Priority List (Preliminary)

NPDES ID	Permit Name	Current Major Minor Status	Issue Date	Expiration Date
NEW	POLYMET	TBD		
MN0054089	CLIFFS ERIE, LLC-HOYT LAKES (combining 2 permits)	Minor	5/4/2001	11/30/2005
MN0042579	CLIFFS ERIE LLC-DUNKA	Minor	8/3/2000	6/30/2005
MN0055301	NORTHSHORE MINING/SILVER BAY P	Major	1/26/2004	9/30/2008
MN0057207	US STEEL/MINNTAC TAILINGS BASI	Minor	9/30/1987	7/31/1992
MN0050504	US STEEL CORP-MINNTAC WWTF	Minor	12/31/1984	12/31/1989
MN0069078	MESABI MINING/STEEL DYNAMICS	Minor	11/30/2007	6/30/2010
NEW	ESSAR EXPANSION	TBD		
NEW	TWIN METALS	TBD		
NEW	TECK	TBD		
NEW	DIRECT REDUCED IRON	TBD		
MN0070378	Magnetation LLC - Plant 4			NEW
	TOP PRIORITIES ARE ABOVE THIS LINE			

NPDES ID	Permit Name	Current Major Minor Status	Issue Date	Expiration Date
MN0044946	EVELETH MINES LLC DBA EVTAC	Minor	6/30/1999	5/31/2004
MN0055964	ISPAT INLAND MINING CO-MINORCA	Minor	9/29/2000	7/31/2005
MN0042536	CLEVELAND CLIFFS LLC	Minor	5/4/2001	11/30/2005
MN0052116	UNITED TACONITE, LLC	Minor	8/25/2005	7/31/2010
MN0052493	US STEEL CORP-RESERVOIR	Minor	1/7/2004	11/30/2008
MN0049760	Hibbing Taconite Co - Tails Basin Area			4/30/2000
MN0044946	United Taconite LLC - Thunderbird Mine			5/31/2004
MN0060151	MDNR Soudan State Park			9/30/2008
MN0059633	ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine Inc. - Laurentian			12/31/2011
MN0001465	Hibbing Taconite Co - Mining Area			5/31/2013
MN0069221	Magnetation Plant 1 & Mesabi Chief Tailings Basins			6/30/2013
MN0069400	Northshore Mining Co - Silver Bay Dredge Disposal			2/28/2014
MN0046981	Northshore Mining Co - Peter Mitchell			7/31/2014
MN0069868	Magnetation Plant 2			9/30/2015
MN0020249	Midland Research Center			7/31/2016
MN0055948	Keewatin Taconite Operations - Tailings			10/31/2016
MN0031879	US Steel Corp - Keetac			10/31/2016
MN0070050	Mining Resources LLC			10/31/2016
MN0068241	Essar Steel Minnesota LLC			9/30/2017

FFY 2013 Report:

MPCA's staffing initiative was only partially funded and also delayed until July 2014. We expect funding for one additional FTE for water quality permitting. In the meantime, we are shifting resources to the extent possible and continuing work to eliminate the mining permit backlog. The Metallic Mining Permit Priority List has been developed and is up to date. The Magnetation Plant 4 was reissued in May. EPA and MPCA staff toured the US Steel Minntac and Cliffs Erie sites in mid-August 2013. We continue to work through various issues in an effort to get these permits developed and on public notice. The Polymet supplemental draft EIS is nearing public notice and the various media permits are being developed concurrently. EPA is a cooperating agency and participates in biweekly update meetings

Process Improvement

By June 30, 2013, EPA and MPCA will work together to develop Standard Operating Procedure(s) (SOP) for the development and review of Metallic Mining permits. The SOP shall include EPA and MPCA roles and responsibilities, and include generic time commitments for each step. The SOP shall describe EPA's early consultation on TMDL implementation, pre-TMDL impaired waters, compliance schedules, and complex effluent limit determinations. EPA and PCA will continue to work together on the variance process improvement effort currently underway.

To maximize permit decision making and processing, EPA and MPCA will work jointly on process improvement activities throughout the term of the PPA. Process improvement activities will include, but not be limited to, EPA/MPCA communications, communication with external parties, and addressing tribal concern. Initial improvements will focus on improved EPA/MPCA collaboration, development and improvement to permit templates, and avoiding duplication of work efforts.

As process impediments are identified EPA and MPCA agree to evaluate and resolve the impediment in a fixed period of time. If an issue is not resolved within the established period it will be elevated to the Division Director (EPA) level and Assistant Commissioner (MPCA) level for resolution.

FFY 2013 Report:

EPA developed a draft SOP and sent it to the MPCA on July 1, 2013. MPCA provided brief verbal feedback later that month. MPCA provided written revisions to EPA's draft SOP on December 23, 2013. Additional negotiation is needed to finalize the SOP. MPCA will work with EPA to schedule further discussions on this issue.

Additional information:

For more information on the Mining Permits Joint Priority, contact:

At MPCA: Jeff Stollenwerk, 218-302-6612, jeff.stollenwerk@state.mn.us

At EPA Region 5: Kevin Pierard, 312-886-4448, pierard.kevin@epa.gov

WQ Monitoring

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2016 (FY 2013-2016)

FFY 2013 REPORT

Objective:

MPCA and EPA Region 5 will collaborate to enhance our monitoring and assessment efforts so that each agency will have sufficient data available to assess the condition of the states' and the Region's waters, identify stressors and sources of water quality impairments/threats, and measure changing environmental conditions to support Clean Water Act program needs and track our progress protecting and restoring water quality.

Statement of Environmental Problem/Issue:

Effective and comprehensive water quality monitoring is an essential part of our environmental protection and restoration efforts. Monitoring information is needed to assess the condition of water quality within the State and the Region, identify pollutant sources/threats, detect new and emerging water quality problems, and evaluate and inform the effectiveness of water quality protection and restoration programs. It is critical to have appropriate waterbody classifications and standards to assess the data against to determine the state of water quality. Enhanced data management and reporting are also key to ensure the data collected is available to staff, partners, and stakeholders, and also to ensure that partners and stakeholders can contribute their monitoring data to assessment and management efforts.

The passage of the state Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) in 2006 significantly increased the State of Minnesota's investment in and support of water quality monitoring. The law led to significantly increased appropriations for the following activities:

- Accelerate monitoring and assessment of Minnesota's waters with a goal of comprehensive assessment every 10 years.
- Develop TMDLs with an emphasis on 3rd party projects led by local government and other local agencies.
- Provide grants to implement TMDLs and protection activities through existing state and local programs designed to improve water quality.

Biennial allocations for these activities have persisted since the law's passage, and are assumed will continue on for the FY14-15 biennium.

With this heightened level of effort comes a greater need for support and flexibility from EPA in conducting water monitoring and assessment activities in a manner that meets both state and federal expectations. The EPA approved the MPCA's updated "Minnesota's Water Quality Monitoring Strategy 2011-2021" in December 2012, which relies heavily on the Watershed Approach for its execution. Identifying monitoring and assessment as a joint priority for the next four years will provide continued focus and attention on collecting, analyzing, and managing the data necessary for both agencies to better understand the quality of the state's rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater and to target future work.

MPCA Monitoring and Assessment Priorities for FFY 2013-2016:

1. Operate Water Monitoring Networks/Approaches:

- Continue implementation of Intensive Watershed Monitoring 10-year cycle. Incorporate wetlands monitoring.
- Continue to operate Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network and expand to subwatershed level.
- Continue participation in NARS.
- Continue to operate Citizen Lake and Stream Monitoring Programs.
- Continue to expand and monitor the Ambient Groundwater Monitoring Network.
- Participate in Mississippi River Monitoring Network Task Force and Water Quality Task Force of Upper Mississippi River Basin Association.
- Continue to identify, and prioritize monitoring gaps that need to be filled, and identify additional resources that would be needed to fill them

FFY 2013 Report:

- Implementation of the Intensive Watershed Monitoring 10-year cycle is on track. Through FFY13, monitoring has been performed in 60% of the state's watersheds. Wetland assessments using a combination of desktop evaluations and extrapolations from random wetland survey data were included in the watershed reports for the Twin Cities, Granite Falls, and Crow Wing watersheds in 2013. Watershed monitoring and assessment reports were completed and webposted for an additional 7 major watersheds in FFY2013.
- Operation of the Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network and expansion of the network to the subwatershed level are proceeding well. 20 installations of subwatershed gages were completed in 2013, bringing the tally to 83 of the 124 to be installed by the end of 2015, on pace to meet that goal. A webpage with data output maps for watershed loads, flow weighted mean concentrations, and yields went live this year:
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/streams-and-rivers/watershed-pollutant-load-monitoring-network.html#products-data>
- No NARS field work was performed in 2013. The report "Pharmaceuticals and Endocrine Active Chemicals in Minnesota Lakes" was released this year.
- Citizen Monitoring programs continue to operate and produce a large amount of data.
- The MPCA continues to expand the Surficial Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Network to identify and track water quality trends in vulnerable aquifers and determine how quality varies with land use. By the end of 2014, the network will include 265 monitoring wells that will provide the necessary information to evaluate and refine groundwater management decisions. As of August 2013 the network includes 210 wells. Each year the existing well network is sampled for over 100 chemicals, including nitrate, phosphorus, sulfate, chloride, trace metals such as arsenic and manganese, and a suite of 68 volatile organic compounds (VOCs). In 2013, the network also was sampled to determine perfluorochemical (PFC) concentrations. Each year about twenty percent of the network (40 wells per year) is sampled for a suite of over 100 contaminants of new or emerging concern (CECs) to better understand presence and extent of these chemicals and inform future monitoring and management efforts. The groundwater information is available to the public via the agency's web-based Environmental Data Access system, is interpreted in agency reports, including the August 2013 "The Condition of Minnesota's Groundwater 2007-2011" report (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=19743>), and several watershed assessment reports accessible at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/watersheds/watershed-overview-map.html>

- Continued providing information on our monitoring networks to the Mississippi River Monitoring Network Task Force and participation in the UMRBA Water Quality Task Force and Executive Committee. An interstate monitoring plan design was selected by the WQ Task Force and approved by the Executive Committee that includes a tributary network connection to the Mississippi River Monitoring Network Task Force's work.

2. Develop and use tools for lake and stream biological monitoring and for waterbody assessment:

- Begin implementing.
- Continue to develop Lake IBIs and aquatic life monitoring and assessment protocols for lakes.
- Establish a Tiered Aquatic Life Use (TALU) waterbody classification system.
- Continue to implement and continuously improve the state's comprehensive assessment approach, to identify impaired and unimpaired waters, to add waters that are newly determined to be impaired to the impaired waters list, and to delist waters that are no longer impaired.

FFY 2013 Report:

- Large River Intensive Monitoring began on the Upper Mississippi River from its headwaters to St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis. A 2-year monitoring approach per river, year 1 was successfully completed.
- Lake IBI field work piloting began toward the end of FFY13. The MDNR will be reporting on results and development progress to MPCA in mid-FFY14.
- The development of TALU is ongoing. Efforts over the last year have been focused on developing a framework for implementing TALU into MPCA's existing water quality assessments, stressor identification, impaired waters listings, permitting, and other water quality management work. As part of the 2014 water quality assessment work MPCA staff will be conducting a pilot of the proposed TALU system. A draft of the proposed TALU system is anticipated to be sent to EPA for preliminary review in February 2014.
- The MPCA continues to implement the watershed approach to assessments incorporating biological monitoring results. As of September 2013 all of the 2013 assessments have been completed, with the exception of assessments for waters used for production of wild rice. Development and refinement of the assessment method for the existing 10 mg/L sulfate standards for wild rice production waters is ongoing. MPCA anticipates submittal of the draft 2014 impaired waters list to EPA by the April 2014 deadline.

3. Enhance data management and access to water quality monitoring data:

- Continue use and expansion of EQiS database for surface and groundwater data
- Address need to upgrade Hydstra time-series database
- Continue to make progress on Watershed Data Integration Project to bring multiple PCA databases' data together and make it readily accessible
- Begin Interagency Data Portal development to bring together data from state water agencies

FFY 2013 Report:

- In spring of 2013 MPCA's EQiS Database exceeded the storage milestone of 10 million results. The database is growing quickly and MPCA foresees the database exceeding 15 million results within the 2013 calendar year. In FY13 MPCA purchased an "unlimited license" for the field data collection software called EQiS Data Gathering Engine (EDGE). It allows for all MPCA field staff, local units of government, contractors, and partners of the MPCA to use the software in order to submit EQiS bound field data to the MPCA. During FY13 EDGE software was used by groundwater staff and piloted by surface water staff – evaluation of performance is

proceeding. MPCA's EQulS Team is working to create a pilot project to test EDGE with external partners in FY14. A pilot project was completed with four laboratories to develop the electronic data deliverable (EDD) for lab data. The pilot was completed in September of 2013. MPCA worked to create a state standard chain of custody for labs to use with EQulS bound data, and additional on-site EQulS training was offered to surface water staff provided by the EQulS creator and contractor EarthSoft. Lastly, MPCA renewed its annual contract with Minnesota Department of Agriculture so that their groundwater data may also be stored within EQulS.

- After a 2 year process failed to find a suitable upgrade to our current time series database, we are continuing forward with our current system built on top of Hydstra. Advances in off-the-shelf systems will continue to be monitored and this effort will be revisited if a suitable candidate is available.
- The MPCA continues to make progress on the watershed data integration project to bring multiple databases' data together and make raw data and assessment data readily accessible. A new website application data search tool with both a text-based and map-based search function was implemented in FFY2013 at: <http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/index.cfm> . As of September 2013 the project has made progress to consolidate disparate but related databases including the Assessment Database (ADB), Pre-Assessment Database (PAD), and Bio Databases for streams and wetlands, into an integrated, non-redundant architecture. Ongoing work includes defining the requirements and technical approach for eliminating duplicative entry and maintenance of data pertaining to: exceedances of water quality standards; assessment team decisions; the Inventory of Impaired Waters; and the 303(d) list of TMDLs required. The system is being designed such that it will be able to incorporate TALU in the future. The goal is to have a new system available for use for the 2014 assessment work that will begin in earnest during the winter months of 2014.
- The state legislature made an appropriation in late FFY13 from the Clean Water Fund to initiate the development of an interagency water data portal. An interagency subteam began development of an IT project charter, and development of an interim "key water information catalogue" product to provide a webpage of web links to the most-frequented current water data and information webpages.

Additional information:

For more information on the Monitoring and Assessment Joint Priority, contact:

At MPCA, Glenn Skuta - 651-757-2730 / glenn.skuta@state.mn.us

At EPA Region 5, Linda Holst at 312-886-6758 / holst.linda@epa.gov

Water Sector Homeland Security

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2016 (FFY 2013-2016)

FFY 2013 REPORT

Objective:

Increase the security and resiliency of waste water treatment plants (WWTP's) against all hazards.

Statement of Problem/Issue:

Waste water treatment plants are part of the nation's critical infrastructure, and their ability to function is essential to public health and environmental protection, the economic viability of communities, and the general welfare. It is important for waste water utilities to be secured as well as possible against all hazards (natural and man-made) and to be as resilient as possible when adverse events affect them.

Actions to be accomplished:

1. MPCA and USEPA will support and assist the Minnesota Water and Waste Water Agency Response Network (MnWARN) in order for them to prepare for mutual assistance during natural and man-made disasters. MPCA will report annually the number of WWTP's that are signatory members of MnWARN.
2. MPCA will collaborate with USEPA and MDH on developing revisions to the state pandemic flu plan, to help ensure that WWTP critical staff and operations are appropriately identified and prioritized in the state plan.
3. MPCA will develop an on-line mechanism to disseminate security related information and bulletins to WWTP's.

FFY 2013 Report:

1. The MPCA has continued to work with the cities and MnWARN with the goal of getting all cities to become members. Currently, 326 cities are members of MnWARN.
2. The MPCA is currently updating existing information in the Agency's COOP, PANflu appendix and plans to integrate new guidance into the MPCA, Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). Additionally, the MPCA has been communicating the need for Communities to start planning for this type of event via the quarterly wastewater newsletter and the annual training event.
3. The MPCA has developed a quarterly wastewater newsletter which is e-mailed to all permittees. This newsletter has a section that updates the permittees on security related information. If the timing of new information is critical an email distribution list has been developed and could be used.

Additional information:

For more information on the Water Sector Homeland Security contact:

At MPCA: Wendy Turri, 507-206-2651, wendy.turri@state.mn.us, or

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At EPA Region 5: Kristen Faulhaber and Charlene Denys