Public Notice of intent to issue

Feedlots

Permit MN0071528

General information

Public comment period begins: June 24, 2020
Public comment period ends: July 24, 2020 (4:30 p.m.)

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to issue this permit for a term of approximately five years.

Name and address of Permittee: David, Ann and Chris Buck
37298 180th Ave.
Goodhue, MN 5527

Facility names and locations:
Buck's Unlimited Dairy – Main Dairy
37298 180th Ave.
Goodhue, MN 5527
Goodhue County
T111N, R15W, Section 019

Buck's Unlimited Dairy – Ann's Farm
37609 180th Ave.
Goodhue, MN 5527
Goodhue County
T111N, R16W, Section 024

MPCA contact person:
Mark P Gernes
Watershed Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2165
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: 507-344-5260
Email: mark.p.gernes@state.mn.us

File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 1-844-828-0942

A draft permit is available for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices. Additional materials relating to the issuance of this permit are available for inspection by appointment at any MPCA office (https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-offices) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The MPCA will mail or email a copy of the draft permit upon request. Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA in writing on or before the public comment period end date and time identified above.

Watershed: Mississippi River - Lake Pepin

Description of Bucks Unlimited Dairy – Main Dairy and Bucks Unlimited Dairy – Ann’s Farm

The existing facilities are composed of six total-confinement barns; two partial confinement barns; one open lot area with runoff controls; one open lot areas without runoff controls; four concrete lined liquid manure storage areas (LMSAs); one earthen lined LMSAs; two feed storage areas without runoff collection and a mortality management area. The existing facilities house 600 head of mature dairy cows over 1,000 pounds [840 animal units (AU)]; 400 head of dairy heifers (280 AU) and 100 head of dairy calves (20 AU) for a total of 1,140 AU.

Proposed changes at the Bucks Unlimited Dairy – Main Dairy facility include the construction of one total confinement barn; three concrete lined LMSAs and one feed pad storage area. The closure of one open lot and one feed pad storage area. Discontinuing housing livestock in partial confinement barn. Increasing the number of mature dairy cows over 1,000 pounds housed at the facility by 645 head (903 AU) and increasing the number of dairy calves housed at the facility by 60 head (12 AU).

Proposed changes at the Bucks Unlimited Dairy – Ann’s Farm facility include the construction of one concrete lined LMSAs. The closure of two open lot areas. Increasing the number of dairy heifers housed at the facility by 100 head (70 AU).

Following the proposed construction activities and changes to animal numbers housed at the facilities, the facilities will be permitted for 1,245 head of mature dairy cows over 1,000 pounds (1,743 AU), 500 head of dairy heifers (350 AU), and 160 head of dairy calves (32 AU), for a total of 2,125 AU.

The preliminary determination to issue is tentative.
Procedure for public participation

As stated in Minn. R. chs. 7000 and 7001, there are three formal procedures for public participation in the MPCA's consideration of this matter. Interested persons may:

1. Submit written comments on the permit application, the draft permit and the preliminary determination to issue a permit.
2. Petition the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting.
3. Petition the MPCA to hold a contested case hearing.

Submitting written comments

To submit comments or petitions to the MPCA through the mail or email, you must state:

1. Your interest in the permit application the draft permit and the preliminary determination to issue a permit.
2. The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the section of the draft permit you believe should be changed.
3. The reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity as to allow the MPCA to investigate the merits of the position.

Public informational meeting

A public informational meeting is an informal meeting during which interested persons can ask questions concerning the proposed facility. MPCA staff will be present to provide information. If an interested person would like the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting, the person should include all information identified above and in addition include a statement of the reasons the person desires the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting and the issues that the person would like the agency to address at the public informational meeting.

Contested Case Hearing

A contested case hearing is a formal proceeding before an administrative law judge empowered to advise the MPCA regarding issues of fact. As described in Minn. R. 7000.1800, persons who submit petitions for a contested case hearing must also state the issues they propose to address in a contested case hearing, the specific relief requested or resolution of the matter, and the reasons (which may be in the form of proposed findings) supporting an MPCA decision to hold a contested case hearing. Failure to comply with these rules exactly may result in a denial of the request. To the extent known, the petitioner may also submit a list of prospective witnesses to be called at a hearing, a proposed list of publications, references, or studies to be introduced at a hearing and the approximate time required for the petitioner to present the matter at a hearing. The decision whether to hold a contested case hearing will be made under Minn. R. 7000.1900.