Public Notice of intent to issue Feedlots Permit MNG440742

General information

Public comment period begins: June 25, 2020
Public comment period ends: July 27, 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 one year.

Name and address of Permittee: Willmar Poultry Farms Inc
PO Box 933
Willmar, Minnesota 56201-0933

Facility name and location: Willmar Poultry Farms Inc - Kerkhoven
1705 Highway 12 SE
Kerkhoven, MN 56252
Swift County
T120N, R37W, Section 25

MPCA contact person: Dana Leibfried
Watershed Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
504 Fairgrounds Road, Suite 200
Marshall, Minnesota 56258
Phone: 507-421-7648
Email: dana.leibfried@state.mn.us

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

Watershed: Chippewa River

Description of Willmar Poultry Farms, Inc - Kerkhoven

This is a public notice of Intent to Issue coverage under the State of Minnesota General Animal Feedlot National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. A copy of this General permit is available for review on the MPCA webpage https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/npdes-and-sds-permits. Copies of the permit application and any 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-m pca/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 General Permit, permit application, and any supporting documentation 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.

The current facility is authorized to house 100,000 Turkeys under five pounds or 5000 animal units (AU) in three total confinement barns with in-door manure packs. The three current barns will be eliminated from the facility.

The proposed issuance will authorize the construction of one 650’ x 182’ new total-confinement turkey barn with in-door manure pack with a capacity of 54,000 Turkeys over five pounds or 972 AU and 54,000 Turkeys under 5 pounds or 270 AU for a total of 1,242 AU. The manure is moved to short-term stockpile locations and/or land applied.

The preliminary determination to issue this Feedlots permit 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 and the preliminary determination to issue coverage under a general 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 and the preliminary determination to issue coverage under a general permit.
2. The action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to the application materials 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.