



This document summarizes *some* of the information contained in the official State Register notice. For the full legal description of the notice, access the State Register version at <http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/mnbookstore.asp?page=register>.

What is this? The MPCA published a Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules in the June 16, 2014 *State Register*. This Notice means that the MPCA is asking for comments about the proposed rules, either in support or opposition or suggesting changes. Although the MPCA does not believe the rules are so controversial that a public hearing is needed, it is providing an extended comment period (80 days) for submitting written comments. (If 25 people ask for a public hearing, and if their issues can't be resolved, then the MPCA will schedule a hearing and republish the notice.) All written comments received will be:

- considered in the development of the final rule language
- reviewed and considered by an administrative law judge in the approval of the final rule
- part of the rule record

Comments about the proposed rule language (or requests for a hearing) must be sent to the address below by 4:30 p.m. on September 4, 2014.

What is this rule about? The MPCA is proposing amendments to water standards that apply statewide (Minn. R. chapter 7050) and also specifically in the Lake Superior Basin (Minn. R. chapter 7052). Water quality standards are important tools for achieving the goal of protecting and restoring Minnesota's lakes, streams, and wetlands. The proposed amendments will update the methods used to calculate the water standards that specifically protect human health from effects of water pollution. Those methods will be applied in future rulemakings to revise the water standards. The changes will make the MPCA's methods more similar to the methods used by the Minnesota Department of Health and U.S. EPA guidance. The updates include:

- addition of more appropriate intake rates and protections for infants and children
- evaluation of acute to long-term adverse effects and toxicological values
- inclusion of new approaches for assessing chemical breakdown products and mixtures
- implementation of new methods for water quality standards applicable in fish tissue to better address bioaccumulative chemicals such as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)

In addition to the changes to the human health methods, the proposed amendments will clarify how *E. coli* water standards (already established under the federal BEACH Act) will apply in Lake Superior.

How do I get a copy of the rule language and an explanation of what is proposed? Go to <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/chdfaa8>. This page provides a summary of the proposed changes and, in the "Rulemaking Documents" tab, the proposed rule language, the Statement of Need and Reasonableness, and exhibits to support the proposal.

How do I ...submit comments?

- Submit your comments in writing (either e-mail or mailed—see address below).
- Identify the portion of the proposed rules you are commenting on, your support of or objection to it, and any change you are proposing.
- Comments must be made during this comment period.

...submit a request for a hearing?

- Submit your request in writing (either e-mail or mailed—see address below).
- Identify the portion of the proposed rule amendments to which you object or state that you oppose the entire set of rule amendments.
- State the reason for your hearing request and any changes you want made to the proposed rules.

Your comments or request must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on September 4, 2014, and must include your name and address.

Because of the detailed materials available on this rulemaking, an extended comment period is provided for interested parties to review the materials and to contact the MPCA with questions

Can the rule be modified? Yes. The MPCA can make changes as a result of comments, within certain limits, and a judge will determine the legality of those changes.

Questions/Submittals: Katie Izzo, MPCA–RMAD, 520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155; Phone: 651-757-2595, or 800-657-3864; minnrule7050.pca@state.mn.us; TTY: 651-282-5332.