



Scientific Peer Review Meeting Announcement

Peer Review Meeting for Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA's) Draft Analysis of the Wild Rice Sulfate Standard Study

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is holding a two-day meeting to hear input from scientific peer reviewers about the MPCA's analysis of research on the impacts of sulfate on wild rice ("Analysis"). This scientific research is an important component of MPCA's process to evaluate the current wild rice sulfate water quality standard. The MPCA has contracted with Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) to convene and facilitate this scientific peer review meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, where reviewers will discuss their responses to technical charge questions given to them to consider regarding MPCA's Analysis. This scientific peer review is the next step in the MPCA's ongoing efforts to improve its scientific understanding of the effects of sulfate on wild rice, and to provide additional factual information for the MPCA's decision about whether the current Minnesota wild rice sulfate water quality standard should be changed.

MEETING DATES

Wednesday-Thursday, August 13-14, 2014

MEETING PURPOSE

The peer review meeting discussion will inform the MPCA's efforts to enhance and refine the analysis of the effects of sulfate on wild rice. Please note that this is not a review of the existing wild rice sulfate water quality standard, or any recommendations for changes to the standard. MPCA has not yet developed policy recommendations or a proposal regarding any changes to the wild rice sulfate standard. Rather, MPCA will consider the peer reviewers' comments as the agency further refines MPCA's analysis of the effects of sulfate on wild rice. If warranted, a Technical Support Document will be developed to describe the scientific basis for any proposed changes to Minnesota's water quality standards.

MPCA will also seek informal and formal public comment at a later date on any recommendations and rulemaking proposal for changing the sulfate standard, if any change is proposed. Any change to the wild rice sulfate standard would be adopted into Minnesota's water quality standard rule (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7050) in accordance with the procedural requirements of the Minnesota Administrative Procedures Act and would require the approval of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MEETING REGISTRATION

Interested members of the public may attend the meeting as observers and must pre-register with ERG by August 6, 2014, online at <https://www2.ergweb.com/projects/conferences/peerreview/register-wildricesulfate.htm> or via telephone at 781-674-7374. Upon registration, you will receive an automatic confirmation of your registration.

OBSERVER COMMENT PERIOD

The agenda will include time early on the first day of the meeting for observers to provide brief oral comments (3-5 minutes per person) relevant to the charge questions that were given to the peer

reviewers. Anyone who wishes to present oral comments at the meeting must sign up when registering for the meeting. Please note that slots will be assigned on a first-registered, first-confirmed basis. To provide a balanced opportunity for comment, no more than one person representing any given organization, advocacy group, institution, or other entity will be allowed to sign up to make comments. Oral commenters are strongly encouraged to provide ERG with ten copies of their oral comments in writing when they arrive at the meeting, so that ERG may distribute them to MPCA and the reviewers. Following the meeting, MPCA will post the peer review comments received on MPCA's Scientific Peer Review web page (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/kppq38rq>). Also, to facilitate the inclusion of your comments in the meeting report, please send an electronic copy of the text of your oral comments to Laurie Waite (laurie.waite@erg.com) before or just after the meeting.

PEER REVIEW MATERIALS AND AGENDA

The public may access the peer review documents, technical charge, and draft agenda on MPCA's web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/kppq38rq>.

MEETING LOCATION

Embassy Suites Hotel - Saint Paul Downtown
175 East 10th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101

A logistical fact sheet is posted on the online registration page and also on the MPCA's Scientific Peer Review web page providing hotel, directions, parking, and other site information. Signs will be posted in the hotel lobby to direct people to the meeting room.

SUMMARY OF KEY STEPS AND TIMELINES

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| 1. Wild Rice Sulfate Standard Study completed | December 31, 2013 |
| 2. MPCA preliminary analysis of study reports | March 2014 |
| 3. Peer review panel nomination and selection | March-May 2014 |
| 4. Peer review materials developed and shared | May-June 2014 |
| 5. Peer review panel meeting | August 13-14, 2014 |
| 6. Final meeting summary report from ERG | End of September 2014 |
| 7. MPCA development of Technical Support Document (if warranted) | Fall-Winter 2014/15 |
| 8. Formal wild rice water quality standard rulemaking (if warranted) | Beginning late 2014 or early 2015 |