Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Public Notice of Intent to Reissue

Wastewater
MN0057207

General information

Public comment period begins: November 15, 2016

Public comment period ends: 4:30 p.m. on December 16, 2016

Current permit issued: September 30, 1987

Current permit expiration date: July 31, 1992

Name and address of Permittee:
U.S. Steel Corp
600 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Facility name and location:
U.S. Steel - Minntac Tailings Basin Area
County Road 102
Mountain Iron, MN 55768
St. Louis County
T058N, R18W, Section 021

MPCA contact person:
Erik Smith
Industrial Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd. N, St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-757-2719
Email: erik.smith@state.mn.us
File manager phone: 651-757-2728 or 1-844-828-0942

The MPCA Commissioner has made a preliminary determination to reissue this permit for a term of approximately five years. A draft permit and fact sheet are available for review on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Public Notices webpage at http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices or at the MPCA office address listed under the MPCA contact person. 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: Little Fork River

Receiving water: Dark River (Class 2B,3C,4A,4B,5,6 water)

Description of U.S. Steel - Minntac Tailings Basin

The U.S. Steel - Minntac Tailings Basin Area facility (facility) is located at Sections 3-10, 14-23, and 27-30, Township 59 North, Range 18 West, Mountain Iron, St. Louis County, Minnesota. The facility covers approximately 8,700 acres (13.6 square miles) and consists of the Minntac tailings basin, the drainage area contributing surface runoff to the basin, and all wastewater disposal systems within the area designated on the attached map. The contributing drainage area includes part of an overburden/rock stockpile area to the southwest of the basin, as well as part of the Minntac plant area. That portion of the plant area which drains to the basin includes the concentrator, the agglomerator, the sewage treatment plant, the lube storage area, a substation, the plant area reservoir, and part of the crushing facilities.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Wastewater 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 draft 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 or the draft 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.