

## General information

**Public comment period begins:** February 14, 2025

**Public comment period ends:** March 31, 2025

**Current permit issued:** February 8, 2019

**Current permit expiration date:** February 8, 2024

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

**Name and address of Permittee:**

University of Minnesota  
501 23rd Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

**Facility name and location:**

U of M - Fay Thompson Center for  
Environmental Management  
501 23rd Avenue SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455  
Hennepin County

**MPCA contact person:**

John Chikkala, P.E.  
Resource Management and Assistance Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 651-757-2271  
Email: [john.chikkala@state.mn.us](mailto:john.chikkala@state.mn.us)

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

A draft permit, permit application/fact sheet are 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 U.S. mail comments must be received by 4:30 p.m.

**Watershed:** NA

**Receiving water:** NA

## Description of Permitted Facility

The Fay Thompson Center for Environmental Management (the Facility) is located on the Minneapolis Campus of the University of Minnesota at 501 23rd Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Facility is located between 23rd Avenue Southeast and 25th Avenue Southeast, one block north of Fourth Street Southeast. A map of the site boundary can be found in Figure A-1 of the Permit Application. The legal description of the site can be found in Section B of the Permit Application.

Hazardous wastes are received at the Facility from many waste-generating activities throughout the University of Minnesota system. For example: research and teaching laboratories, printing and photography operations, vehicle maintenance, medical and veterinary activities and agricultural activities) and from non-university generators through the Chemical Safety Day Program and other programs. The majority of the wastes received by the Facility are generated by the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses. The Facility has been designed to manage and store wastes having a wide variety of physical and chemical properties, including corrosive, ignitable, reactive and toxic wastes. The specific waste codes that the University of Minnesota is authorized to store at the Facility can be found in Appendices A and C of the Permit Application.

Hazardous wastes are segregated into storage rooms within the Facility based on specific characteristics of the waste. The loading dock and staging area are also approved storage areas. Total container storage capacity is 128,100 gallons, and three (3) 2,500 gallon indoor tanks provide a total tank storage capacity of 7,500 gallons. The Facility has approximately 20,000 square feet of hazardous waste management and storage area.

The preliminary determination to reissue this Hazardous Waste 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

Comments may be submitted:

- 1) Online at <https://mpca.commentinput.com/comment/search>; or
- 2) By U.S. postal mail to the following address:  
John Chikkala, P.E.  
Resource Management and Assistance Division  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194

Submitted comments or petitions 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.



# Proposed RCRA permit reissuance University of Minnesota Fay Thompson Center for Environmental Management

## Storage Facility

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has drafted a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit reissuance for the University of Minnesota's (U of M) Fay Thompson Center for Environmental Management (FTCEM) located at 501 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The facility receives hazardous waste from many waste-generating activities throughout the University of Minnesota system.

The MPCA recommends reissuing the RCRA permit. This draft permit is on public notice from **February 14, 2025** through **March 31, 2025**.

## The facility

The U of M Fay Thompson Center for Environmental Management is located at 501 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The FTCEM includes three indoor storage tanks (2,500 gallons each), and container storage capacity of 128,100 gallons. The FTCEM serves as a consolidation point, storage facility, and reclamation facility for chemical waste generated by the university. Many of the U of M's facilities, including laboratories, shops, agricultural stations, and health facilities, generate chemical wastes as an unavoidable part of doing business. The facility is designed to safely manage a wide variety of hazardous wastes. Most of the wastes stored there are defined as hazardous because they are ignitable, toxic, corrosive or reactive.

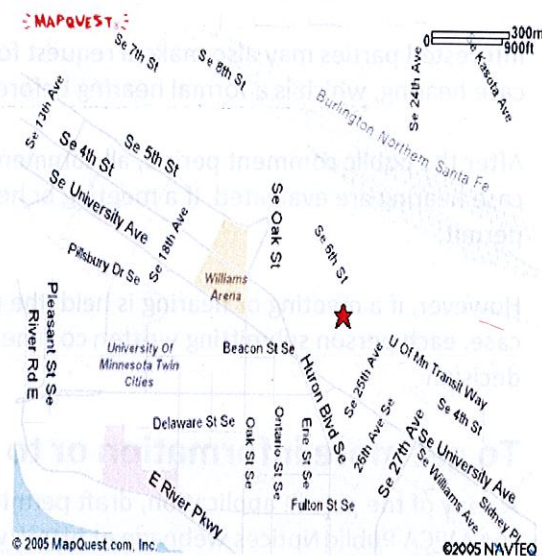
The University of Minnesota also accepts waste from Minnesota schools and nonprofit organizations. Under state and federal regulations, these activities require a hazardous waste permit.

## The permit

This RCRA permit was originally issued on August 2, 1993. It was reissued April 7, 1999, September 21, 2005, September 27, 2012, September 9, 2016, and February 8, 2019. The existing permit was modified on December 6, 2019.

The draft permit covers the following areas of the Facility's operation:

- Authorized wastes;
- Operating conditions for proper storage;
- Facility inspections;
- Site security;
- Chemical Safety Day Program;
- Personnel training;
- Emergency prevention and response procedures;
- Reporting and record keeping;
- Closure requirements and financial assurance; and
- Liability coverage





## The permit process and public participation

Minnesota facilities whose activities have the potential to affect the environment must obtain MPCA permits. Permit conditions require the operation and maintenance of the facility in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

Before permits are issued, modified, or reissued, the MPCA places the draft permit on public notice and seeks comments from interested organizations and individuals. Under MPCA rules, comments must include:

- a statement of the writer's interest in the proposed permit;
- a statement of the action the MPCA is requested to take, including specific references to the draft permit language to be changed; and
- the reasons supporting the writer's position, stated as specifically as possible.

Interested parties may also make a request for the MPCA to hold a public informational meeting or a contested case hearing, which is a formal hearing before an administrative law judge.

After the public comment period, all comments and requests for a public informational meeting or a contested case hearing are evaluated. If a meeting or hearing request is denied, the MPCA decides whether to reissue the permit.

However, if a meeting or hearing is held, the permit decision is made after the meeting or hearing. In either case, each person submitting written comments receives a formal response summary of the MPCA's final permit decision.

## To get more information or to comment

A copy of the permit application, draft permit, and public notice are available to interested citizens for review on the MPCA Public Notices webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publicnotices>. Public comments can be made online via SmartComment. This website may be accessed at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, in Minneapolis. 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/contact-us>) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For additional information or to submit written comments about the proposed permit, address your request or comments to:

John Chikkala, P.E.  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Resource Management and Assistance Division  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Comments, petitions, and other requests must be received at the MPCA on or before the public comment period end March 31, 2025 and U.S. mail comments must be received by 4:30 p.m.

Also, you can contact John Chikkala at 651-757-2271 or toll-free outside the metro at 800-657-3864, or by email at [john.chikkala@state.mn.us](mailto:john.chikkala@state.mn.us).

You may also contact Adam Krajicek, University of Minnesota, at 612-626-1590.