



Fact Sheet #5

Watershed-Based Permitting Case Study: Final Permit

Rahr Malting Company

*National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and State Disposal System
Permit No. MN0031917*

Watershed

Minnesota River

Permitting Authority

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Point of Contact

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Permit Information

www.pca.state.mn.us/water/pubs/rahrtrad.pdf

Date Issued

January 8, 1997

Background

- ◆ The Rahr Malting Company processes approximately 2.5 million pounds of barley per day for various industries and discharges its waste into the 16,770 square-mile Minnesota River watershed.
- ◆ The receiving segment has a TMDL for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD).
- ◆ In 1996, Rahr Malting decided to expand operations and applied for a permit to build a wastewater treatment plant to treat the additional effluent.
- ◆ No waste load allocation was available for the proposed new discharge of 150 lb/five day carbonaceous BOD (CBOD5) and the best available technology proposed could not achieve zero discharge.

Permit Type

- ◆ Individual NPDES permit.

Permitting Strategy

- ◆ The Rahr Malting Company proposed to offset the proposed new discharge through a point-nonpoint source trading program.
- ◆ The Rahr Malting Company works with the Coalition for Clean Minnesota River and American Rivers to identify potential trades.

Permit Overview

- ◆ The permit expired in January 2002. Rahr Malting has applied for a new permit, but continues to operate under the requirements of the expired permit.
- ◆ The trading program allows point-to-nonpoint trades. Specific reductions to be purchased became part of the permit, and therefore could not easily be changed during the permit term.

Permit Limits

- Permit contains first effluent limit for phosphorous ever assigned to Rahr Malting, and the first effluent limit for a phosphorous discharge to the Minnesota River. It contains a CBOD5 effluent limit of 12-mg/l year round and a phosphorous monthly average limit of 2 mg/l.

- The Rahr Malting Company was required to install and maintain limits-of-technology controls at the wastewater treatment facility, in addition to the trading requirements.

Monitoring Requirements

- The permit requires monitoring and compliance at two separate outfalls for the following parameters: flow, temperature, pH, CBOD5, ammonia, phosphorus, and dissolved oxygen.

Special Conditions

- None.

Measures of Success

- ◆ As of January 2002, Rahr Malting exceeded its goal of offsetting 150 lbs. of CBOD per day.
- ◆ BMP implementation is ahead of schedule.
- ◆ The company has completed four trade sites and have achieved 204 lbs. of offsite CBOD credits per day.