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December 1, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor, State of Minnesota  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Ryan Inman, Revisor  
Office of the Revisor  
700 State Office Bldg.  
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St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Greg Hubinger, Director  
Legislative Coordinating Commission  
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The Honorable Carrie Ruud  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural  
Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee  
3233 MN Senate Bldg.  
95 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen  
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural  
Resources Finance Committee  
3207 MN Senate Bldg.  
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The Honorable David Osmek  
Chair, Senate Energy and Utilities Finance and  
Policy Committee  
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The Honorable John Persell  
Chair, House Environment and Natural  
Resources Policy Committee  
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The Honorable Peter Fischer  
Chair, House Subcommittee on Water  
551 State Office Bldg.  
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The Honorable Rick Hansen  
Chair, House Environment and Natural  
Resources Finance Division  
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The Honorable Jean Wagenius  
Chair, House Energy and Climate Finance and  
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The Honorable Chris Eaton  
Ranking Minority Lead, Senate Environment and  
Natural Resources Policy and  
Legacy Finance Committee  
2403 MN Senate Bldg.  
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St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable David Tomassoni  
Ranking Minority Lead, Senate Environment and  
Natural Resources Finance Committee  
2235 MN Senate Bldg.  
95 University Ave. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Erik Simonson  
Ranking Minority Lead, Senate Energy and  
Utilities Finance and Policy Committee  
2417 MN Senate Building  
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Legislators  
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The Honorable Dale Lueck  
Ranking Minority Lead, House Environment and  
Natural Resources Policy Committee  
311 State Office Bldg.  
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The Honorable Dan Fabian  
Ranking Minority Lead, House Environment and  
Natural Resources Finance Division  
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The Honorable Josh Heintzeman  
Ranking Minority Lead,  
House Subcommittee on Water  
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The Honorable Chris Swedzinski  
Ranking Minority Lead, House Energy and  
Climate Finance and Policy Division  
245 State Office Building  
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RE: Annual Report on Obsolete, Unnecessary, or Duplicative Rules, as Required by Minnesota  
*Statute (Minn. Stat.) § 14.05, subd. 5*

Dear Legislators:

*Minn. Stat. § 14.05, subdivision 5, states:*

*“By December 1 of each year, an agency must submit to the governor, the legislative coordinating commission, the policy and funding committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the agency, and the Revisor of Statutes, a list of any rules or portions of rules that are obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative of other state or federal statutes or rules. The list must also include an explanation of why the rule or portion of the rule is obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative of other state or federal statutes or rules. By December 1, the agency must either report a timetable for repeal of the rule or portion of the rule, or must develop a bill for submission to the appropriate policy committee to repeal the obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative rule. Such a bill must include proposed authorization to use the expedited procedures of section 14.389 to repeal or amend the obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative rule. A report submitted under this subdivision must be signed by the person in the agency who is responsible for identifying and initiating repeal of obsolete rules. The report also must identify the status of any rules identified in the prior year’s report as obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative. If none of an agency’s rules are obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative, an agency’s December 1 report must state that conclusion.”*

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has conducted a review of its rules and requested input from interested external parties (e.g., Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, regulated parties, local government and environmental advocacy groups) to identify rules that are obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative.

## Rules identified as obsolete, unnecessary, or duplicative in 2020

### 1. Updates to underground waters, *Minn. R. pt. 7060*

MPCA staff has identified portions of *Minn. R. 7060* with references to other rule parts that require updating—for example, 7060.0200 refers to text in parts 7050.0100-7050.0220 as of 2014 that was moved or changed in 2019. The MPCA, Minnesota Department of Health, and other agencies with relevant authority are reviewing specific items for revision in a future rulemaking.

### 2. Updates to permits and certifications, *Minn. R. pt. 7001*

MPCA staff has identified portions of *Minn. R. 7001.3175*, *7001.3275*, and *7001.3300* with requirements to submit four copies of relevant preliminary permit applications, final permit applications, or detailed site evaluation reports that are now considered obsolete because of streamlined agency processes and technological efficiency. The MPCA plans to revise the requirement from four copies to one; to provide for the use of electronic means as specified by the commissioner, where appropriate; and to revise cross-references as needed.

### 3. Updates to solid waste, *Minn. R. pt. 7035*

Aspects of *Minn. R. 7035* regulate the transportation of infectious waste that relate to activities of the Minnesota Department of Health, which has amended their rules regulating infectious waste management. As a result, some requirements in this part are obsolete or require correction. Additional requirements correspond to marking and placarding requirements of the federal hazardous material regulations administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which supersede conflicting state requirements.

### 4. Updates to hazardous waste, *Minn. R. pt. 7045*

The MPCA has started rulemaking, referred to as the Land-Related Housekeeping Rule (Revisor's ID #04155), to make minor corrections, clarifications, and updates to its solid and hazardous waste rule chapters, including several revisions noted in previous reports as detailed in the next section. This rulemaking will also address these obsolete portions of the rules and relevant cross-references:

***Minn. R. pt. 7045.0075, subpart 2, item E, and 7045.0135, subpart 1a, item F.*** These subparts list special requirements that apply to the management of comparable fuels or comparable syngas fuels under 40 CFR § 261.38. Federal rules related to comparable syn/gas exclusions in 40 CFR § 261.38 were vacated by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on June 27, 2014. The EPA then implemented this change into federal regulation on April 8, 2015, by repealing the comparable syn/gas exclusions.

***Minn. R. pt. 7045.0125, subpart 12.*** This subpart provides requirements that apply to the export of industrial ethyl alcohol. The MPCA is adopting the revised federal hazardous waste import and export regulations, including industrial ethyl alcohol export, to replace the former state hazardous waste export rules.

***Minn. R. pt. 7045.0135, subpart 2b, items B and C.*** This subpart contains requirements regarding additions, modification, or exceptions to incorporated federal provisions. Federal updates render the requirements under items B and C obsolete.

***Minn. R. pt. 7045.0248, subpart 4.*** This subpart provides reporting requirements for exported waste, which are rendered obsolete. The MPCA is now adopting revised federal hazardous waste import and export regulations and their respective definitions relating to exporter regulation in place of former state hazardous waste export rules.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0261.** The MPCA originally identified only a portion of pt. 7045.0261 as obsolete in the 2015 Obsolete Rules Report (ORR) but will propose additional revisions to repeal and replace requirements based on new federal hazardous waste manifest regulations.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0294, subpart 2.** This subpart contains recordkeeping provisions for alternate manifests, which are now obsolete with the MPCA's online electronic reporting system for generator licenses, which is available through the MPCA's e-Services portal. Current manifest exception report retention requirements are also obsolete based on the new federal hazardous waste manifest regulations.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0302.** This part provides special conditions that apply to international shipments. This part is rendered obsolete with the revised federal hazardous waste import and export regulations.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0322.** This part incorporates federal requirements for transfrontier shipments of hazardous waste. The MPCA is adopting the revised federal hazardous waste import and export regulations in their entirety in place of the former state hazardous waste import and export rules, which makes this existing part obsolete.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0452, subpart 3, item E and 7045.0556, item D.** Part 7045.0452, subpart 3, item E contains requirements regarding the submittal of tracking documents and the length of time they must be maintained. This requirement is rendered duplicative with the planned adoption of relevant transboundary movements of hazardous waste federal regulations adopted via incorporation by reference. Part 7045.0556, item D contains requirements for notices that are also rendered obsolete.

**Minn. R. pts. 7045.0075, 7045.0262, 7045.0265, 7045.0375, 7045.0381, 7045.0385, 7045.0391, 7045.0476, 7045.0580, and 7045.0582.** These parts contain requirements related to manifests. The MPCA is planning to repeal the current state hazardous waste rules in their entirety and adopt the federal hazardous waste regulations by reference under proposed *Minn. R. 7045.0581* to ensure Minnesota regulated parties comply with the most current standards.

## Status of rules identified in previous Obsolete Rules Reports (ORRs)

The MPCA has identified obsolete rules in previous ORRs, some of which have already been addressed/remedied by the agency. For the previously identified rules listed below, the MPCA is either currently completing rulemaking to address them or still evaluating options to make the necessary changes.

### 1. Environmental Management System (EMS) Rules, *Minn. R. pt. 7007.1105-1107 (2018 ORR)*

The MPCA identified *Minn. R. pt. 7007.1105-1107*, which pertains to eligibility for and application and permit content of EMS provisions in State air permits, as unnecessary. These rule parts were used rarely and are no longer in use by any air permitted facilities. The MPCA plans to start an omnibus housekeeping rule project to make minor corrections, clarifications, and updates to its air rule chapters with an Air Housekeeping Rule (Revisor's ID #04678) in 2021; this rulemaking will address the EMS rule provisions.

### 2. MPCA Board Rules (2015 ORR)

The 2015 Legislative session eliminated the MPCA Citizens' Board (Minn. Stat. § 116.02, subd.6 and 8 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=4&year=2015&type=1>)). Minn. R. ch. 7000 and several other MPCA rules include obsolete references to the Board and its activities. The MPCA planned to address these obsolete rules by working with the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to prepare proposed

legislation repeal obsolete rule provisions related to the Board according to Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4, article 4, section 149.

**Revisor's Instruction.** *The Revisor of Statutes shall prepare draft legislation to amend statutes to conform with structural changes to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency under sections 114–117 and 150. The Revisor shall submit the proposed legislation to the chairs of the House of Representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over environment and policy by January 1, 2016.*

The MPCA expected that the necessary legislation would also grant editorial authority to the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to eliminate references to the Board in rules. This legislation was not introduced. The MPCA will continue to investigate legislative and administrative rulemaking options for eliminating the obsolete references.

### **3. Hazardous Waste Rules (2013 and 2015 ORRs)**

The following rules relating to the MPCA's hazardous waste management program were identified as obsolete or duplicative:

**Minn. R. pt. 7035.9120, subparts 4 and 5.** Aspects of these subparts regulating transportation of infectious waste relate to activities of the Minnesota Department of Health, which has amended their rules regulating infectious waste management. As a result, some requirements in this part are obsolete or require correction. Additional requirements correspond to marking and placarding requirements of the federal hazardous material regulations administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation, which supersede conflicting state requirements.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0075, subpart 5.** This subpart provides a mechanism to petition for the use of an alternate manifest for hazardous waste transportation. As of 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations prohibit the use of alternate manifests.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0125, subparts 4–6.** These subparts, which relate to the transportation of hazardous waste being recycled, contain obsolete citation to repealed *Minn. Stat.* § 221.0355.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0206, subpart 6, item B.** This part establishes generator size determination requirements. Obsolete requirements related to polychlorinated biphenyls are being deleted.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0230, subpart 1a.** This part establishes very small quantity generator license application requirements, which are duplicative because of proposed language revisions.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0243, subpart 3, item G.** This part establishes the terms and conditions of a hazardous waste generator license; item G is obsolete because the MPCA's process for issuing licenses has changed.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0261, subpart 1a, item B; 7045.0294, subpart 1a; and 7045.0381, subpart 5.** These subparts provide the option of using an alternate manifest, which is no longer allowed under the federal hazardous waste manifest program.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0325, subpart 2.** This subpart provides exceptions to the federal uniform hazardous waste manifest. The EPA has preempted and prohibited all state manifest requirements at variance with the federal manifest.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0365, subpart 3.** Item I in this subpart establishes requirements applicable to hazardous waste transfer facilities. These requirements conflict with federal recordkeeping requirements of the regulations administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation under the authority of the Hazardous Material Transportation Act.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0371.** This part, which requires hazardous wastes to be transported in accordance with applicable state statutes and federal requirements, contains obsolete reference to repealed *Minn. Stat.* § 221.0355.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0395, subpart 5.** This subpart requires specific actions in response to a spill of hazardous waste, which are preempted by the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0686.** This part establishes the requirements for the management of spent or waste household batteries. In 2005, the MPCA adopted the Federal Universal Waste Rule (*Minn. R. pt. 7045.1400*), under which all spent or waste household batteries became eligible for management in Minnesota as universal wastes in lieu of the more strict previous requirements of this part. MPCA staff are not aware of any remaining operators operating under the requirements of this part when managing these batteries.

**Minn. R. pt. 7045.0875, subpart 8, item B.** This part establishes that used oil processor/refiner must submit biennial reports, which the MPCA no longer requires.

**Minn. R. pt. 9210.0120, subpart 5, and Minn. R. pt. 9210.0810, subpart 1.** These rules relate to the administration of solid waste grants and contracts. The parts of these rules that refer to providing notice specifically through publication in the *State Register* were rendered obsolete by the implementation of the new SWIFT system.

The MPCA has started rulemaking to make minor corrections, clarifications, and updates to its solid and hazardous waste rule chapters and various cross-references; this rulemaking will also address the obsolete rules identified above. Addressing these obsolete requirements will involve changes to several chapters of Minnesota rules. The MPCA expects to complete this rulemaking, referred to as the Land-Related Housekeeping Rule (Revisor's ID #04155), in 2021.

#### **4. Green House Gas Emissions Rules (2014 ORR)**

Portions of the Green House Gas Emissions rules were vacated by a 2014 Supreme Court decision. The MPCA is waiting to initiate rulemaking to repeal the obsolete rules until the EPA finalizes its proposed rule amendments to address the vacated portions of the rule.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me at 651-757-2031.

Sincerely,



Greta Gauthier  
Assistant Commissioner for Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations  
Commissioner's Office

GG/KI:mb