



REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE

NOVEMBER 2025

Annual Permitting Efficiency Report

Tracking the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's efforts to maintain efficiency in completing environmental permits, and helping to support our state's economy.

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Report to the Legislature, November 2025, submitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Legislative charge

Minn. Stat. § 116.03, subd. 2b.

Report to Legislature

The commissioner must prepare an annual permitting efficiency report that includes statistics on meeting the tier 2 goal in paragraph (a) and the criteria for tier 2 by permit categories. The report must be submitted to the governor and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over environment policy and finance by October 1 each year and must be posted on the agency's website. The report must include:

- (1) for each permit application that has not met the goal, an explanation of whether the delay was caused by the responsiveness of the proposer, lack of staff, scientific or technical disagreements, or the level of public engagement;*
- (2) for each permit that has not met the goal, the number of days from initial submission of the application to the day of determination that the application is complete;*
- (3) a summary of the data for the reporting period and an assessment of whether program or system changes are necessary to achieve the tier 2 goal in paragraph (a);*
- (4) a statement of the number of tier 2 permits completed within the reporting period and, immediately following in parentheses, a statement of the percentage of total applications received for that tier 2 permit category that the number represents, stated separately for industrial and municipal permits; and*
- (5) for permits that did not meet the goal due to lack of staff, a combined estimate of the aggregate staff resources that would have been necessary for all affected permits to meet the goal.*

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Executive summary

(Current review period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)

Table 1. Executive summary

-	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Priority permits that met goal	97%	94%	97%	99%	98%	98%	99%	98%	98%	99%
Non-priority permits that met goal	40%	46%	63%	61%	92%	83%	46%	76%	67%	64%
All permits that met goal	74%	87%	93%	93%	96%	96%	89%	91%	95%	95%

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA or agency) is committed to ensuring Minnesotans have healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water and a better climate. The MPCA works collaboratively to implement policies that achieve results. The following report is an assessment of the agency's permitting efficiency as an indicator for our ability to issue environmentally protective permits while also supporting economic growth.

The MPCA manages more than 29,000 air, water and land permits at over 26,000 sites (facilities can have more than one permit). The overall permitting efficiency continues to be very good regarding the **MPCA's priority permits which meet permit timeliness goals 99% of the time** and represent economic growth and new job opportunities for the state. However, Table 2 shows that some permit types are more difficult to issue within the provided timelines. Priority permits are defined as needing construction for new or expanding projects and are the most technically complex and controversial projects.

Non-priority permits are such as reissuances of an existing permit with no substantive change or construction. The agency faces challenges on completing routine permits by the deadline. While 64% of those permits met timing goals, we know more work is needed. We are committed to identifying how improvements can be made to get closer to 90%.

Table 1 shows the percentage of permit applications received that met timeliness goals, by year, from 2016-2025. Permit applications that have not met the goal for reporting year 2025 are listed individually, in the Appendix B.

Tier 1 permits are permits that do not require individualized actions or public comment periods. These permits have a 90-day issuance goal. Tier 2 permits are permits that require individualized actions or a public comment period and have a 150-day issuance goal or a 210-day issuance goal for publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities. During the review period, the MPCA received 2,402 Tier 1 and 816 Tier 2 applications.

The agency returned less than 1% of applications as incomplete for this review period.

Permitting efficiency continues to be very good for priority permits issued by the agency as a whole. However, a more detailed look at the media – air, land, and water – shows that not all permitting programs achieve the permitting efficiency goals. Improvement efforts are underway, and some permitting changes have begun in calendar year 2025 to help address permitting issues; this is discussed in more detail in the Improvement efforts section.

Tables 2-4. Permit Type by Media in 2025**Air Permits**

Tier	Priority	2025
Tier 1	Priority permits that met goal	N/A
Tier 1	Non-priority permits that met goal	74%
Tier 1	All permits that met goal	74%
Tier 2	Priority permits that met goal	15%
Tier 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	8%
Tier 2	All permits that met goal	10%
Tier 1 and 2	Priority permits that met goal	15%
Tier 1 and 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	47%
Tier 1 and 2	All permits that met goal	43%

Land Permits

Tier	Priority	2025
Tier 1	Priority permits that met goal	50%
Tier 1	Non-priority permits that met goal	0%
Tier 1	All permits that met goal	38%
Tier 2	Priority permits that met goal	60%
Tier 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	0%
Tier 2	All permits that met goal	25%
Tier 1 and 2	Priority permits that met goal	55%
Tier 1 and 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	0%
Tier 1 and 2	All permits that met goal	30%

Water Permits

Tier	Priority	2025
Tier 1	Priority permits that met goal	100%
Tier 1	Non-priority permits that met goal	98%
Tier 1	All permits that met goal	100%
Tier 2	Priority permits that met goal	71%
Tier 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	79%
Tier 2	All permits that met goal	77%
Tier 1 and 2	Priority permits that met goal	99%
Tier 1 and 2	Non-priority permits that met goal	84%
Tier 1 and 2	All permits that met goal	98%

Tables 2-4 are a more detailed look at the Tier 1 and 2 priority and non-priority permits according to media – air, land, and water – for permit applications received in 2025.

Air and water Tier 1 permits met permitting efficiency goals 74% and 100% of the time, respectively. Tier 1 land permits met the permitting efficiency goal 38% of the time.

Ten percent of air Tier 2 permits, 25% of land Tier 2 permits and 77% of water Tier 2 permits met the permitting efficiency goal. These permit types require public notice periods, public engagement, and coordination with federal permitting authorities at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). They may also be subject to environmental review requirements. The list of permit types by media in each tier can be found in Appendix A.

During the review period, the MPCA received 2,402 Tier 1 and 816 Tier 2 applications and 95% of those applications resulted in permits issued within the 90-day, 150-day or 210-day issuance goal. Notably, the MPCA has maintained the same rate of permit issuance as in 2024, despite a 25% increase in permit applications in 2025.

For the 5% of permit applications that do not result in permit issuance by the goals, reasons for the permit issuance delay are tracked and reported in Appendix B of the report. The reasons of delay are broken down into reasons remedied by the applicant or reasons better addressed by the agency.

Table 5. Reasons for Delay in 2025

Tier	Priority	Applicant Related Delay	Agency Related Delay
Tier 1	Priority	7 (70%)	3 (30%)
Tier 1	Non-priority	2 (33%)	4 (67%)
Tier 2	Priority	8 (36%)	14 (64%)
Tier 2	Non-priority	6 (7%)	79 (93%)

Table 5 shows the reasons for delay by Tier and permit priority. Understanding the reasons for delay offers insight into areas for improvement in the permitting process. For example, while a permit application may be called administratively complete within the first 30-days, a more in-depth technical review of the application may result in agency permit staff notifying the applicant that the permit application is technically incomplete or is missing critical information. Waiting for the applicant to provide the missing or incomplete information creates a delay during which the agency cannot work on the permit.

For priority permits, waiting for the applicant contributes to delays in achieving the 90-day permitting efficiency goal for Tier 1 70% of the time. While Tier 2 priority permits are delayed 36% of the time by issues largely remedied by the applicant.

The MPCA is actively working to improve efficiency where reasons for delay fall within the responsibility of the agency – this work is discussed in the Improvement efforts section below. A “lack of staff” and “no significant external reasons for delay” are the two most frequent responses by agency staff for permit delays. “No significant external reasons for delay” represent areas where the agency needs to evaluate the root cause of the delay using continuous improvement projects, which are ongoing and vary across the media. See further discussion in the Improvement efforts section below.

Permit programs are consistently evaluating ways to balance the needs of all Minnesotans. The agency is focused on efficiently issuing permits with timeline certainty, conducting a thorough technical analysis, and engaging Minnesotans on the potential human and environmental impacts of the permitted activities, particularly in overburdened communities.

Addressing a lack of staff for permitting programs has been a long-standing and program specific endeavor. Recent agency staffing resources have been focused on maintaining existing services rather than increasing staff for the agency’s regulatory work.

Some program specific funding for additional staff occurred during the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions, with programs hiring permitting staff in late 2023 and throughout calendar year 2024. In 2023, the Solid Waste program received funding for seven new staff and created a second unit dedicated to permitting. In 2023, the Air permitting program received funding for staff to work on the development of a cumulative impacts analysis rule, which will expand and govern the analysis for permit decisions in environmental justice areas, and the development of new rules governing air toxics regulations for facilities that emit air toxics in certain Minnesota counties. Once the rules are adopted, the staff will be dedicated to permitting. Additionally, in 2024, the MPCA requested and received additional air permitting staff to focus on permitting in environmental justice areas. And in 2025, four additional staff were appropriated to the agency for permitting reform. The hiring, on-boarding and training for staff continues to be a priority of the agency.

The Minnesota Legislature and the MPCA have taken significant steps toward assessing and addressing inequalities that arise from environmental pollution. The agency's analysis shows that people who live in areas with more low-income residents or more people of color are more than twice as likely as the state average to have polluting facilities nearby and are nearly three times as likely as those in the rest of the state to face risks to their health from pollution emitted by those facilities. The MPCA is committed to focusing permitting resources in environmental justice areas in the state, which will require greater analysis, community engagement, and time during the permitting process.

A statutory change in 2025 now requires the agency to report the percentage of total Tier 2 applications received and issued by the agency, broken down by industrial and municipal permits. This data is in Table 4 below and during the review period, the MPCA issued 198 industrial permits (90% of applications received) and 47 municipal permits (16% of the total applications received).

However, as seen in Table 6, some permits do not fit into either category of industrial or municipal. For example, solid waste permitting is in the Resource Management and Assistance Division (RMAD) and feedlots permitting is in the Watershed Division. In order to show a holistic picture of the agency's permitting programs, these permits are included in Table 6.

Table 6. FY2025 Tier 2 Permit Issuance Totals by Division

Division	Total Permits Issued	Percent of Tier 2 Issued by division
Industrial	198	90%
Municipal	47	16%
RMAD	14	82%
Watershed	114	39%
Total	373	46%

Table 7. Tier 2 Issuance Details in 2025

Application Received this Fiscal Year?	Total Applications	Percent of Applications
No	232	62%
Yes	141	38%
Total	373	100%

Table 7 shows the totals and the percentage of the Tier 2 permits issued from applications received in fiscal year 2025. Sixty-two percent of the permits issued were in response to applications received in a previous fiscal year while only 38% were from applications received this fiscal year. This data shows that permits are often not issued within the same fiscal year the applications are received, nevertheless, the permit may still be issued within the 90, 150 or 210-day issuance goals.

Table 8. Total Permit Issuance Details by Year, for Last Five Fiscal Years

Year	Number of permits issued	Number of applications received	Percent of permits issued
FY 2021	368	330	112%
FY 2022	525	581	90%
FY 2023	1,311	1,357	97%
FY 2024	726	325	223%
FY 2025	373	769	49%

Table 8 shows the number of applications received and permits issued by the agency, across all media and permit types, by year for the last five fiscal years. The number of applications received varies significantly from year to year. This is often due to, in large part, to General Permit reissuances for stormwater, feedlots and wastewater permits. For example, in FY2023, there were 820 feedlot general permit applications, which represents more permit applications than the total number of permit applications for the previous four years. The difference is because the General Permits are issued every 5 years – so the fifth year of every cycle has all facilities submitting an application. This is true for other General Permit types as well.

For a second example, permits for publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities have a 210-day goal for issuance. This results in many of the applications received in FY2025 being issued in FY2026. In this case, a comparison between the applications received and the permits issued in the same fiscal year does not reflect whether the permitting goals were achieved.

Since many permits issued are from applications received in previous years, and as explained above, there are variations in applications received per year, the percentage of permits issued for a given fiscal year compared to the total number of applications received for that year is not an enlightening metric. In some years, such as FY2021 and FY2024, this would leave us with over 100% of all permits issued. While for other years, such as FY2025, it leaves us with a relatively small percentage.

Finally, this reporting period the Legislature requested a new metric; requiring the agency to estimate the staff resources the agency would have needed to issue all permits that did not meet their timeliness goals due to lack of staff. The agency does not currently have a uniform way to track this data point across all permitting program areas to provide a meaningful estimate for this reporting cycle. However, the MPCA plans to improve our data in the next year so that this estimate can be produced for the FY2026 report.

Background

This report results from concerns expressed about the length and uncertainty associated with regulatory processes, including environmental review and permitting. In 2010, the Legislature directed the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) to review the environmental review and permitting programs of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), the MPCA, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local units of government. A range of businesses and elected officials suggested that the structure and process of permitting at that time was negatively affecting the business climate and economic growth in Minnesota. Permitting and environmental review process reform was identified by those raising concerns as an important step for Minnesota state government to facilitate job creation in the state.

To address these concerns, Governor Dayton issued Executive Order 11-4 (EO11-04) on January 24, 2011. The Executive Order required MPCA and DNR to adopt a 150-day goal for reaching a permit decision following the determination by the appropriate agency that the permit application is complete. This same goal was then established in Session Laws 2011, Chapter 4, codified in Minn. Stat. § 116.03.

The statutory goal differs from the executive order goal in that the statutory goal begins counting time upon the initial submission of an application, instead of when the application is determined to be complete by the agency. This law is referred to as the Permitting Efficiency Law, and requires, among other things, the MPCA to determine, within 30 business days of receipt of a permit application, whether the application is substantially complete, and to inform the applicant of the deficiencies if the application is incomplete. The Permitting Efficiency Law also requires the MPCA and the DNR to submit semi-annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature on August 1 and February 1 of each year.

In 2014, the Permitting Efficiency Law was amended, changing the requirement to only annual reports due on August 1 to the Governor and the Legislature. The Law also established Tier 1 and Tier 2 permit categories. Tier 1 permits are permits that do not require individualized actions or public comment periods. These permit types have a 90-day issuance goal. Tier 2 permits are permits that require individualized actions or a public comment period and have a 150-day issuance goal. The list of permit types in each tier can be found in Appendix A.

In 2017, the law was amended to set a new goal of 210 days for Tier 2 permits issued to publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities.

In 2025, several new and altered requirements for this annual report were added to the law. In particular, a requirement to provide more details on the number of Tier 2 permits completed compared to the total number of applications received and a requirement to estimate the additional staff resources required to meet the issuance goals for all permits that missed their goals due to a lack of staff.

MPCA's environmental permitting programs

The MPCA manages more than 29,000 air, water, and land permits at over 26,000 sites (facilities can have more than one type of permit). Most permits are issued for a period of five years although a few permit types are issued for 10-year terms or are non-expiring. Permits are issued to businesses, governmental units, and individuals, and cover a wide range of facilities and activities. Permits are required for the construction and operation of facilities that discharge or emit (or have the potential to discharge or emit) specifically defined pollutants and for certain activities.

With few exceptions, the MPCA implements federal regulatory programs on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as the EPA's delegated authority. Without this delegation, many of the current permittees the MPCA serves, and new applicants would be required to seek necessary permits directly from the EPA's Regional Office in Chicago (Region 5). To receive delegation, the state must have its own permitting rules and regulations in place – it does not rely solely on federal requirements. While many of the requirements are mandated by federal regulations, state laws and the MPCA's permitting processes often allow for increased flexibility and customer assistance, which results in greater overall efficiency than otherwise achievable working directly with the EPA.

Most permits must undergo a rigorous public participation process to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to provide input. This process requires a public notice of the draft permit – at a minimum of 30 days – and may include public meetings or hearings. The MPCA must review, consider and respond to all written comments received and revise draft permits, where appropriate. While this public participation process provides valuable insight to the final permit, it adds time to the permit review and issuance process.

To reduce time, when possible, the MPCA uses a variety of permits to meet the needs of the regulated community. The use of general and registration permits allows the MPCA to cover similar facilities under a standardized permit, applying standardized requirements for all permittees using these types of permits. For most general permits, there is only one statewide public notice period; therefore, applicants that qualify do not need a public notice for their specific facility. Facilities that qualify for a general permit receive their permit much faster than those needing an individual (facility-specific) permit.

Types of permits issued by the MPCA include:

Air permits – Individual, general, and registration permits for facilities that emit defined air pollutants such as particulate matter, sulfur and nitrogen compounds, and carbon monoxide. Permitted facilities include power plants, refineries, manufacturing plants and dry cleaners.

Land permits – Individual and general permits for facility operations to prevent or minimize the release of pollutants such as landfill leachate, oil, gas, and other hazardous materials. Permitted facilities include municipal and industrial waste transfer stations and landfills, facilities that have below and aboveground storage tanks, and hazardous waste storage and treatment facilities.

Water permits – Individual and general permits for facilities that discharge pollutants such as treated sewage, sediment, residual chlorine, and phosphorus to surface and groundwater of the state.

Permitted facilities include animal feedlots, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater conveyance systems from construction projects, industrial sites and municipalities, and extensions of sewer systems.

Priority permits

The mission of the MPCA's permitting programs is to protect and improve the environment and human health, as well as support jobs and economic development in the state. To achieve this goal, it is the MPCA's policy to prioritize permits for new or expanding projects, which typically represent new economic opportunities and jobs. These "**priority**" permits are defined as needing some sort of construction at the site. A new permit or the significant modification of an existing permit is required for these projects. Often these are the most technically complex and controversial projects and, therefore, require more time to issue. The remaining projects (called "**non-priority**" permits) are generally routine permit re-issuances that do not require substantive changes or involve construction and, therefore, are typically less time-sensitive to permittees. Permittees covered under these existing permits are allowed to continue to operate until MPCA staff can be assigned to work on the permit reissuance.

Improvement efforts

Legislative actions on Agency's permitting programs

A new law in 2024 established the use of a coordinated project plan (CPP) as a plan and schedule to ensure environmental review and associated required state agency actions are completed efficiently by coordinating and establishing deadlines for all necessary state agency actions. Applicants can request a CPP and the plan provides greater certainty to applicants and project proposers while they navigate the regulatory approval process.

While not legislatively required, permitting programs have started developing permit project plans (PPP) between the permitting program and the applicant when environmental review is not needed. The plan is for both the applicant and the agency to follow while working through complex permitting projects. Coordinated project plans and permit project plans support effective project management. Also, starting in 2024, the agency initiated agencywide project management training as a way to improve the effectiveness of our efforts on all projects.

In the 2025 legislative session the environmental omnibus bill included an appropriation of \$700,000 to fund four additional permitting staff in the land, air and water permitting programs. Related to permitting efficiency, new legislation made clear that permitting efficiency goals do not apply to permit applications required due to enforcement actions. For all others, the MPCA must advise a permit applicant of any application deficiencies within 30 business days of receiving a permit application. Then, permit applicants have five business days to remedy deficiencies before the MPCA determines an application is complete or incomplete. Additionally, permit applicants may request an expedited permit if they agree to associated costs and a timeline from the agency. If existing staff are unavailable to expedite the permitting request, the MPCA may contract for permitting services. The agency may deny an expedited permitting request if both MPCA staff and contracting services are unavailable. If an expedited permit is completed ahead of schedule, the MPCA may retain all fees previously agreed to by the applicant.

Agency data management system improvements

The MPCA continues to upgrade its permitting data management system, called Tempo (the MPCA's environmental database), to improve utility for staff and permittees. The MPCA added new online features for some permit types, which will allow permittees to update and submit permitting data electronically, and made changes that streamline staff management of permits in Tempo. These changes make submitting information to the agency faster and more accessible, speeding up the over-all permitting process.

To support the MPCA's commitment to transparency, certainty and customer service, the agency launched a new permit application tracker tool (<https://data.pca.state.mn.us/#/views/Permitapplicationtracker/About>) in 2025 on its website. This workbook allows regulated parties and members of the public to view the status of permit applications currently being processed by the agency.

Most recently, the agency updated services for electronic permit applications for solid waste permit options. The MPCA is in process of updating the Industrial stormwater permit and monitoring services, which will allow nearly all of this permit-type to be auto-issued based on data submitted. Finally, additional upgrades have been made to the feedlot permit service that support nutrient management planning by permittees and more efficient staff review. Further updates to the feedlot services will roll out in 2026.

The agency began work on wastewater permit required reports and permit applications in May 2024. These efforts are priority work for development resources. We expect the first of these report submittals from permittees will be online in early 2026, with permit applications and additional reporting services to follow. These reports vary from annual operational reports from facilities to release or overflow reports as required in permits.

In September 2024, the MPCA updated existing air permit online services for air administrative and reissuance permits. Work also began on online application services to allow for major and minor amendments for registration and individual permits air permits. These services are expected to be live in 2026.

Permitting and community engagement

The agency also continues to implement continuous improvement projects to streamline permitting processes, provide flexibility to regulated parties, and increase engagement with communities while still ensuring we issue technically and legally defensible permits that protect human health and the environment.

Both the air permitting and wastewater permitting programs also focus on issuing or reissuing permits that have been awaiting action for extended periods to modernize the permits and make future permitting actions for these facilities more efficient.

All permitting programs continue to engage with permit applicants to accommodate their needs during the permitting process. For example, often permit applicants have changes to their projects; this may result in applicants needing to provide additional information to the agency, or flexibility in permit language. The agency permitting programs work with applicants as issues arise, but this can often result in unforeseen delays, and at the expense of permit timeliness. With respect to community needs, we continue to refine our process for addressing environmental justice, an area of focus for the state.

Here are a few of the efforts by permitting programs in the last year to create new permitting efficiencies:

Air permitting program improvements

Building on efforts in 2023 to identify the primary reasons for delays in permit issuance, several projects were initiated in 2024 and 2025 including:

- Updating air permit online services as discussed above, to streamline permit application reviews.
- Providing assistance to permit applicants and their consultants will improve permit applications and cut down on delays during the technical review period. Several efforts initiated in 2024 have continued in 2025 to provide additional services to applicants:

- Early and increased review of mathematical calculations in the air permit application is now part of the 30-day completeness review so that applicants have early feedback on deficiencies otherwise caught later in the permitting process.
- Calculation template for applicants made mandatory in 2025 streamlines the MPCA review. By making these mandatory, the MPCA is able to spend less time reviewing these calculations for completeness and for technical soundness during permit processing. The MPCA does not have calculation templates for all process types.
- Developed expectations and training for staff to establish a schedule with applicants and their consultants during the permitting process to ensure projects keep moving. These schedules clarify timelines and obligations for the MPCA and the applicant and their consultant throughout the permitting process. For specific types of applications (i.e., moderate amendments, major amendments, reissuances, and new individual permits), permit engineers are contacting permit applicants to offer status meetings to regularly discuss expectations, schedules, needs, and issues with the goal of improving permit timeliness.
- In addition to better communication with the applicants, an email inbox at: AQ.Permit.Forms.MPCA@state.mn.us for applicants to send in questions. In the last year, the MPCA has been receiving emails on a variety of application topics including questions on preparing and submitting permit applications and issues with completing application forms.
- In 2025, the air permitting program spent additional time focused on permitting applications that have been backlogged, starting with the oldest permits. Addressing backlogged permits can streamline the permitting of Tier 2 priority permit applications. In approximately one year focused on the backlog, the air permitting program has issued 15 backlogged permits that had a combined total of 100 year or 36,000+ days backlogged.
- The air permitting program has consistently reduced the Title V permit application backlog over the last five years and now the air program is expanding those efforts to reduce all backlogged permit applications by more than 15% by July 1, 2027. Managing the backlog of air permit applications modernizes the permit and may improve the speed of future permit reissuances or modifications when a new application is received.

Land permitting program improvements

The Solid Waste permitting program has created a new permitting unit, bringing on an additional supervisor, permit engineers and hydrogeologists. With additional capacity, work is being redistributed so that permit engineers can specialize on specific industry sectors. These changes result in a larger number of staff working on permits in general and also allows engineers to be experts on specific permit types, which facilitates their issuance of permits more quickly.

Aside from broader efforts in data management and online services, the Solid Waste permitting program has built automated reports that help supervisors and managers track the permitting process more closely. The creation of these tools will allow the program to look at areas of the process that are taking the most time and allow for the program to address them and create more efficiencies and shorten the timeframe for permits, from application to issuance. While several reports have been developed to track the permitting process, more work is needed in this area. With funding from the 2025 legislative session, the Solid Waste section is also in the process of hiring a data analyst to complete a thorough review of the program and its processes. The analyst will then help the program develop more tracking and performance management tools.

Water permitting program improvements

Water permits make up a substantial portion of the total permit applications received by the agency each year and include some of the most technically complicated and controversial permits. The wastewater program is unique as it crosses three divisions of the MPCA working together toward a shared goal of protecting human health and the environment from the disposal of sewage and industrial waste. In the summer of 2024, leadership from across the agency met over three days to evaluate how to ensure the cross-agency wastewater program supports a connected and transparent permitting system, with the goal of improving workflow and permit issuance timelines. The results included six improvement areas, which ranged from process improvements and data input and management improvements. The wastewater program developed a FY2026 One Wastewater Permitting Strategy, which identifies and sequences Municipal and Industrial permits ready for effluent limit review and improving cross-program permitting process flow with a shared understanding of priorities, roles, and responsibilities. In addition, a FY2026 – 2027 Wastewater Task Force was created consisting of a dedicated technical team focusing on specific Industrial Wastewater permits aimed at increasing efficiencies and reducing the permitting backlog.

The MPCA is committed to identifying opportunities for carrying out projects to implement improvements to create efficiencies in the permitting process, such as clarifying roles and responsibilities, setting achievable expectations and goals, and establishing planned communication across the program. The deployment of these improvements will include data collection and review to determine the degree of improvement achieved.

Data

Table 9. Tier 1 and Tier 2 permit applications from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Tier	Priority	Received	Withdrawn	Returned	Determined Complete	Issued (total)	Issued (within goal)	Issued (missed goal)	% issued within goal*	Pending (total)	Pending (within goal)	Pending (missed goal)
1	Non-priority	111	2	3	106	85	82	3	83%	21	7	14
1	Priority	2,291	3	0	2,288	2,259	2,253	6	100%	29	25	4
2	Non-priority	715	12	16	687	105	97	8	53%	582	505	77
2	Priority	101	6	11	84	37	29	8	56%	47	32	15
TOTAL		3,218	23	30	3,165	2,486	2,461	25	95%	679	569	110

*% issued within goal: includes applications received minus those withdrawn, returned, and pending still within 90- and 150-/210-day timeliness goal. NOTE: The 210-day Tier 2 goal calculations for municipal wastewater permits were first introduced in the FY2018 Annual Permitting Efficiency Report.

Table 10. Tier 2 permit applications from March 4, 2011 – June 30, 2025

Priority	Received	Withdrawn	Returned	Determined Complete	Issued (total)	Issued (within goal)	Issued (missed goal)	% issued within goal*	Pending (total)	Pending (still within goal)	Pending (missed goal)
Non-priority	11,730	364	728	10,646	6,112	3,816	2,296	47%	4,526	2,481	2,045
Priority	10,538	86	204	10,248	9,586	9,361	225	95%	662	398	264
TOTAL	22,268	450	932	20,894	15,698	13,177	2,521	73%	5,188	2,879	2,309

*% issued within goal: includes applications received minus those withdrawn, returned, and pending still within 150- or 210-day timeliness goal. NOTE: The 210-day Tier 2 goal calculations for municipal wastewater permits were first introduced in the FY2018 Annual Permitting Efficiency Report.

Table 11. Applications received in FY2025

Media	Priority	Non-priority	Total
Tier 1 Air Permits	0	54	54
Tier 1 Land Permits	9	4	13
Tier 1 Water Permits	2,281	48	2,329
Tier 1 Total	2,290	106	2,396
Tier 2 Air Permits	37	80	117
Tier 2 Land Permits	8	18	26
Tier 2 Water Permits	56	615	671
Tier 2 Total	101	713	814
Grand Total	2,391	819	3,211

Tables 11 lists the count of all applications received by MPCA during FY 2025 by environmental media and legislative priority status (where priority refers to construction-related permits and non-priority refers to non-construction-related applications).

This view does not count such activities as permit/coverage terminations, notifications, pre-applications, confidentiality determinations, fee-processing activities, closure orders, and some types of registrations and modifications for certain environmental permitting programs, or applications where it was determined that no permit is required. Applications that were withdrawn or returned, and those for which permits were denied, are included in this table. Applications that are exempted from the timeliness goals due to funding are also included in this table.

Table 12. Tier 1 timeliness in FY2025

Media	issued <= 90	issued > 90	pending <= 90	pending > 90	Total
Priority Land Permits	3	1	3	2	9
Priority Water Permits	2,249	5	22	2	2,278
Non-priority Air Permits	39	1	2	2	44
Non-priority Land Permits	0	0	2	2	4
Non-priority Water Permits	43	0	3	1	47
Total	2,334	7	32	9	2,382

Table 12 lists the count of all legislative Tier 1 applications (those not requiring individualized action and having a 90-day issuance goal) received during FY 2025 by environmental media and legislative priority status (where **priority** refers to construction-related permits and **non-priority** refers to non-construction-related applications).

The table breaks out permit applications as either **issued** or **pending**, and whether the permits were issued within the 90-day goal. For pending applications, time is calculated from the application receipt date to the lesser of today's date or the end of the reporting period (FY 2025).

This table does not include permit applications that were terminated, returned, denied, or withdrawn. Additionally, this table does not include permit applications that are exempted due to funding.

Table 13. Tier 2 timeliness in FY2025

Media	Issued <= 150	Issued <= 210	Issued > 150	Issued > 210	Pending <= 150	Pending <= 210	Pending > 150	Pending > 210	Total
Priority Air Permits	2	0	3	0	11	0	7	0	23
Priority Land Permits	3	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	8
Priority Water Permits	22	2	4	0	14	2	2	4	50
Non-priority Air Permits	3	0	5	0	28	0	28	0	64
Non-priority Land Permits	0	0	0	0	10	0	7	0	17
Non-priority Water Permits	93	1	2	1	446	21	30	12	606
Total	123	3	14	1	512	23	76	16	768

Table 13 lists the count of all legislative Tier 2 applications (those not requiring individualized action and having a 150-day issuance goal, or for municipal wastewater permit applications, a 210-day issuance goal) received during FY 2025 broken down by environmental media and legislative priority status (where **priority** refers to construction-related permits and **non-priority** refers to non-construction-related applications).

The table breaks out permit applications as either **issued** or **pending**, and whether the permits were issued within the 150- or 210-day goal. For pending applications, time is calculated from the application receipt date to the lesser of today's date or the end of the reporting period FY 2025.

This table does not include permit applications that were terminated, returned, denied, or withdrawn.

Appendix A – Tier 1 and 2 permit categories

Breakdown of permit types

Tier 1 (90 day goal)

Wastewater

- Sewer Extension

Stormwater

- Construction Stormwater General Permit
- Industrial Stormwater General Permit

Solid Waste

- General Concrete Permit
- Transfer station extensions
- Minor amendments for Solid Waste facilities

Air

- Capped Permit – New and administrative changes
- Registration Permit – New and administrative changes
- Part 70 General Permit – New and administrative changes
- State General Permit – New and administrative changes

Hazardous Waste

- Administrative amendment
- Minor amendment

Feedlots

- Construction short form
- Interim

Tier 2 (150-day goal)

Industrial Wastewater

- Individual Industrial permits

Stormwater

- Industrial Stormwater Individual Permits
- MS4 General Permit
- MS4 Individual Permits

Solid Waste

- Utilization Project – Case Specific Beneficial Use Determination
- Utilization Project – Demonstration Research Project
- New Solid Waste Facility Permits (non PBR) – (landfills, transfer station, SSO/MSW compost facilities, etc.)
- Major amendments for Solid Waste facilities
- Reissuance of Solid Waste facility permits

Air

- Individual Part 70 Operating Permit
- Individual State Operating Permit
- Reissuance of expiring Individual Part 70 or State Operating Permit
- Major Amendment to an individual permit
- Moderate Amendment to an individual permit
- Minor Amendment to an individual permit
- Administrative Amendment to an individual permit
- Applicability Determination

Hazardous Waste

- Individual Permit
- Reissuance
- Major amendment

AST

- Individual permit
- Reissuance
- Permit change

Feedlots

- All other than Construction Short Form and Interim

Tier 2 (210-day goal)

Municipal Wastewater

- Individual Municipal permits

Appendix B

Reason for delay codes:

COMP – Unresolved compliance issues*

LACK – Lack of staff

NORS – No significant external reasons for delay

WAIT – Waiting for information from applicant*

PBLC – Significant public engagement process

CHRG – Changes in federal or state regulations or policies*

FDRV – Lengthy Federal or EPA review

INAD – Technically inadequate application forms, components and/or supporting documents

INCM – Incomplete info on required application forms, checklists, components, and/or supporting documents

*Note that COMP, WAIT and CHRG may involve scientific or technical disagreement.

Appendix B – Tier 1 projects over 90 days, Tier 2 projects over 150 or 210 days, and reasons for delay

Air Permits

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
3M - Alexandria	Part 70 Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/25/2024	-	248	LACK; WAIT;
3M - R&D Facility	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	8/2/2024	-	332	NORS;
acpi Wood Products LLC	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	11/5/2024	9/3/2025	237	WAIT;
American Crystal Sugar - Moorhead	Part 70 Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/1/2024	-	241	LACK;
Arandell Corporation	Part 70 Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/7/2024	-	266	LACK;
BF Nelson Corp	Option D Issuance	non-priority	1	10/7/2024	2/6/2025	122	WAIT;
Building Materials Manufacturing LLC	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	1/2/2025	-	179	LACK;
Calument Reclamation Company	Part 70 Permit Issuance	priority	2	10/31/2024	-	242	LACK;
CHS Fairmont	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	8/30/2024	2/13/2025	167	NORS;
Cleveland-Cliffs Minorca Mine Inc	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	12/10/2024	-	202	WAIT;
Dakota County - Hastings Campus	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	11/4/2024	7/8/2025	238	COMP; NORS;
Delta Air Lines Inc - Mpls/Saint Paul	Part 70 Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/6/2024	-	236	LACK;
DENCO II LLC	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	10/2/2024	-	271	NORS;
Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend Refinery	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	7/16/2024	-	349	NORS;
Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend Refinery	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	8/1/2024	-	333	NORS;
Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend Refinery	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	12/2/2024	-	210	NORS;
Gopher Resource LLC	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	8/2/2024	-	332	LACK;
Great Lakes Gas Transmission - Shevelin Compressor Station 3	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	1/15/2025	-	166	LACK;
Great Lakes Gas Transmission - Station 1	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	1/21/2025	-	160	LACK;

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Green Plains Fairmont LLC	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	10/15/2024	-	258	NORS;
Green Plains Fairmont LLC	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	1/24/2025	-	157	LACK;
Guardian Energy	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	12/20/2024	-	192	LACK;
Heartland Corn Products	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	8/30/2024	-	304	NORS;
Industrial Finishing Services Inc - Perham	Part 70 Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	7/18/2024	-	347	LACK;
Invenergy Cannon Falls LLC	Part 70 Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	1/16/2025	-	165	LACK;
Louisiana-Pacific Corp - Two Harbors	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	9/6/2024	-	297	LACK;
Marvin Windows and Doors	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	7/9/2024	6/16/2025	342	LACK;
Met Council - Metropolitan WWTP	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	12/18/2024	-	194	LACK;
Met Council - Seneca WWTP	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	8/13/2024	-	321	NORS;
Nordic Fiberglass Inc	Administrative Change	non-priority	1	8/5/2024	-	329	NORS;
Northern Natural Gas Co - Carlton	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	10/8/2024	5/8/2025	212	NORS;
NSP/Xcel Energy Black Dog Generating	Permit Change - Moderate	priority	2	1/15/2025	7/30/2025	166	WAIT;
NSP/Xcel Energy Riverside Generating	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	10/3/2024	7/2/2025	270	NORS;
NSP/Xcel Energy Riverside Generating	Permit Change - Moderate	priority	2	10/31/2024	7/2/2025	242	NORS;
NUOL Green Chemistry	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	11/8/2024	-	234	NORS;
Oldcastle Infrastructure Inc	Administrative Change	non-priority	1	1/13/2025	-	168	LACK;
Sanimax USA Inc	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	7/17/2024	4/1/2025	258	PBLC;
Sappi Cloquet LLC	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	7/3/2024	-	362	NORS;
Sofidel America - Duluth	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	9/11/2024	6/30/2025	292	NORS;
Spectro Alloys Corp	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	1/9/2025	8/21/2025	172	LACK;
Superior Minerals Co	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	1/15/2025	-	166	LACK;

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Taconite Harbor Energy Center	Permit Change - Major	non-priority	2	11/5/2024	5/28/2025	204	NORS;
Tiller Corp - Maple Grove Mining & Processing Facility	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	8/16/2024	4/21/2025	248	LACK;
University of MN - Twin Cities	Administrative Change	non-priority	2	12/16/2024	-	196	LACK;
Viracon Inc	Part 70 Permit Issuance	priority	2	9/16/2024	5/7/2025	233	NORS;
WLSSD WWTP	Part 70 Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	9/4/2024	-	299	LACK;

Land Permits

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Crow Wing County Demo Debris Landfill	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/14/2024	-	228	WAIT; LACK;
DA WW 69kV Transmission Line Relocation Structure 64	Concrete Burial General Permit	priority	1	1/8/2025	-	173	-
Douglas County Demo & Landfill, LLC	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	12/2/2024	-	210	LACK;
Elk River Landfill, Inc.	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	9/4/2024	-	299	WAIT;
Frattalone's Dawnway Landfill	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/21/2024	-	252	MISS; LACK;
Hawkins Inc BP18 Facility	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/22/2024	-	220	LACK;
Hubbard County South Facility	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	1	3/19/2025	-	103	LACK;
Jeffry Ochs	Concrete Burial General Permit	priority	1	10/15/2024	1/31/2025	108	-
Ron Backes	Concrete Burial General Permit	priority	1	8/27/2024	-	307	-
SKB Lansing Landfill	Permit Change - Major	non-priority	2	10/8/2024	-	265	LACK;
Todd County Demolition Landfill	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/22/2024	-	220	LACK;
Vonco V Duluth LLC	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	7/8/2024	-	357	LACK; WAIT;
Walters Recycling & Refuse Transfer Station	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	9/9/2024	7/29/2025	294	PBLC; WAIT;
Waste Management - Rochester Transfer Station	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	1	8/13/2024	-	321	LACK;

Water Permits

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
AaCron Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/29/2024	-	336	FDRV;
Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	9/3/2024	8/22/2025	300	NORS;
Alexandria Light & Power	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/8/2024	-	357	FDRV;
Amboy WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/15/2024	-	258	LACK;
AMPI - Paynesville	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	8/29/2024	4/1/2025	215	LACK;
Andrew and Chelsas Farm	Permit Issuance	non-priority	1	3/21/2025	-	101	WAIT;
Badger Foundry Co	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/29/2024	-	336	FDRV;
Bae Systems Land & Armaments LP	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	8/6/2024	-	328	FDRV;
Bayer Built Woodworks Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	9/5/2024	-	298	WAIT;
Belle Plaine WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	11/13/2024	9/1/2025	229	NORS;
Boomerang Laboratories LLC	Permit Change - Minor	non-priority	2	12/11/2024	-	201	NORS;
Central Boiler Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/29/2024	-	336	FDRV;
Chandler WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/21/2024	-	252	NORS;
Cold Spring Brewing Co	Coverage Change	non-priority	2	8/29/2024	2/1/2025	156	LACK;
Cornerstone Dairy LLP	Permit Issuance	priority	1	10/25/2024	3/19/2025	145	WAIT;
Cowley Lake Preserve	Coverage Issuance	priority	1	3/21/2025	7/29/2025	101	COMP;
CP 001-029-006	Coverage Issuance	priority	1	1/10/2025	4/29/2025	109	WAIT;
CP 001-470-001	Coverage Issuance	priority	1	1/10/2025	4/29/2025	109	WAIT;
Cromwell WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/23/2024	-	250	NORS;
Danfoss	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	12/23/2024	-	189	FDRV;
Disabled Veterans Rest Camp	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	1/28/2025	9/8/2025	153	NORS;

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
East Gull Lake WWTP	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	11/18/2024	-	224	NORS;
Effie WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	7/22/2024	6/16/2025	329	NORS;
Fabcon Inc	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	8/14/2024	-	320	LACK;
Gerdau Ameristeel - Duluth	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/18/2024	-	347	FDRV;
Grand Rapids WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	8/1/2024	-	333	NORS;
Granite Falls Energy LLC	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	12/3/2024	-	209	LACK;
Haubenschild Heifer Farm	Permit Issuance	priority	1	8/28/2024	3/10/2025	194	WAIT;
Isanti WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/21/2024	-	252	LACK;
Jackson WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/25/2024	-	217	NORS;
Kasota	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	8/21/2024	-	313	NORS;
Kemps LLC - Culture Products Facility	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/29/2024	-	336	FDRV;
Kerry Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	1/14/2025	-	167	FDRV;
Lake Benton WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	7/22/2024	-	343	NORS;
Lass Farms, Inc.	Coverage Issuance	priority	2	7/23/2024	4/10/2025	261	NORS;
Metal-Matic Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	8/5/2024	-	329	FDRV;
Nationwide DI Water Solutions LLC	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/26/2024	7/1/2025	216	NORS;
Northern Natural Gas Co	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	9/17/2024	-	286	NORS;
Northfield WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	11/27/2024	-	215	NORS;
O'Shaughnessy Distillery	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	9/16/2024	-	287	FDRV;
Oronoco WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	7/1/2024	-	364	LACK;
Otsego East WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	9/30/2024	-	273	LACK;

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Otter Tail Power Co - General Office	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/31/2024	-	334	FDRV;
Plainview Milk Products Cooperative	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	10/21/2024	-	252	NORS;
Prairie Farms Dairy Inc - Caves of Faribault	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	9/16/2024	-	287	FDRV;
Racine WWTP	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	9/23/2024	-	280	NORS;
Red Wing WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	8/26/2024	-	308	LACK;
Resideo - Golden Valley	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	9/30/2024	-	273	FDRV;
Saemrow Dairy	Permit Reissuance	priority	2	10/7/2024	4/1/2025	176	WAIT;
Saputo Cheese USA Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/15/2024	-	350	FDRV;
SP 009-118-008 Prevost Rd FDR	Coverage Issuance	priority	1	1/9/2025	5/21/2025	132	WAIT;
SRM Plant 29003	Coverage Change	non-priority	2	10/18/2024	7/1/2025	255	NORS;
SRM Plant 72901	Coverage Change	non-priority	2	10/18/2024	7/1/2025	255	NORS;
Syensqo DBA Cytec Engineered Materials Inc.	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	8/5/2024	-	329	FDRV;
Technical Die-Casting, Inc	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	7/15/2024	-	350	FDRV;
The Cove Utility Association	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	7/22/2024	-	343	NORS;
Trident Seafoods - Motley	Coverage Issuance	non-priority	2	8/12/2024	-	322	FDRV;
Waldorf WWTP	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	8/5/2024	-	329	LACK;
Wild Mountain Ski Area	Permit Issuance	priority	2	1/21/2025	-	160	NORS;
William and Karen Naatz Farm	Permit Issuance	priority	1	2/28/2025	-	122	WAIT;
Wisconsin Central Ltd - Two Harbors Facility	Permit Reissuance	non-priority	2	9/16/2024	-	287	LACK;
Woods at Eagle Lake WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	7/23/2024	2/1/2025	193	WAIT;

Master AI Name	Activity Type	Priority	Tier	App Received Date	Issuance Date	Days in house (rec'd to FY end)	Reasons for Delay
Worthington Industrial WWTP	Permit Change - Major	priority	2	7/31/2024	6/1/2025	305	WAIT;