



City of Eveleth Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements 2026 Capital Investment Request - House File 4055 (Rep. Cal Warwas)

Project Summary

The City of Eveleth is seeking \$4.2 million in state bonding to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility to meet new state and federal water quality standards for phosphorus and mercury.

This investment will fund:

- Advanced filtration system improvements
- Rehabilitation and replacement of aging infrastructure
- Compliance with updated Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) permit requirements

Why This Project Matters

- New Permit Issued: March 1, 2022
- New Limits:
 - Total Phosphorus: 0.124 mg/L
 - Mercury: 1.8 ng/L
- Compliance Deadline: March 31, 2029

Without these upgrades, Eveleth risks:

- Non-compliance with state regulations
- Potential enforcement actions and penalties
- Environmental impacts to regional waters

Project Status & Readiness

- ✓ Completed pilot testing of filtration technologies
- ✓ Submitted Facility Plan to MPCA (approved by MPCA 5-19-2025)
- ✓ Listed as Project #11 on PFA Project Priority List
- ✓ Design underway (started November 2025)

Construction Timeline:

- Start: Spring 2027
- Completion: Fall 2028

Project Cost & Local Impact

- Total Project Cost: \$12.6 million
- State Request: \$4.2 million
- Local Investment to Date: \$250,000+
- Other Funding:

Affordability Challenge

- Current sewer rates already at 1.4% of Median Household Income (MHI)
- This meets/exceeds the Public Facilities Authority affordability threshold
- Limited ability to raise rates further without burdening residents

Why State Investment Is Needed

- Ensures compliance with state-mandated environmental standards
- Protects regional water quality and public health
- Supports economic stability in a small Iron Range community
- Prevents significant future costs from system failure or enforcement

Additional Cost Pressures

Project costs are subject to uncertainty due to:

- Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements
- Federal tariffs on materials
- Inflation and global supply chain disruptions

Request

Support House File 4055 - Provide \$4.2 million in state bonding to help the City of Eveleth deliver this critical infrastructure project on time and in compliance.

THANK YOU!