



# *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

*Executive Branch of Tribal Government*

*Office of the Chief Executive*

*Via Facsimile*

Virgil Wind, Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359

February 12, 2025

Eric Taubel, Director  
Office of Cannabis Management  
P.O. Box 64034  
St. Paul, MN 55164

Re: Mille Lacs Band Comments on Proposed Cannabis Rules

Dear Director Eric Taubel:

My name is Virgil Wind, and I have the honor of serving as the Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a sovereign and federally recognized tribe located in East-Central Minnesota. We govern through a three-branch system dedicated to the well-being of our people. Our government's efforts are sustained through a blend of grant funding and other revenue, primarily derived through the success of our business ventures.

It is with great appreciation and respect that we offer our comments on OCM's Proposed Cannabis Rules. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this significant rulemaking process, which has far-reaching implications for tribal communities.

<b>Section No.</b>	<b>Subtitle</b>	<b>Comments</b>
9810.1101, subp. 2	Mandatory Recall Process	This subpart requires reimbursement to individuals for any returned product that has been recalled. This reimbursement requirement should extend back to the point in the supply chain where the issue causing the recall occurred. For example, a dispensary should be reimbursed by the manufacturer for any cannabis edibles contaminated at the manufacturing facility.
9810.1301, subp. 1	Statewide Monitoring System	This subpart requires cannabis businesses to use and pay "for all costs to purchase and use the statewide monitoring system." This effectively creates a monopoly for one vendor: MTRC. The State should set pricing limits on MTRC to ensure that cannabis businesses are not gouged. Alternatively, the statewide monitoring system could be required to interface with MTRC's competitors.

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9810.1301, subp. 7	Administrative Holds	This subpart requires cannabis businesses to “comply with all administrative holds and any other restrictions on the sale or transfer of regulated products issued through the statewide monitoring system.” The State should adopt deadlines for the resolution of administrative holds.
9810.1302, subp. 5(A)	Additional Tracking Requirements	This provision requires cannabis businesses to report “the actual price of the product and any discount amount.” The State should ensure that such pricing information remains confidential. Alternatively, the State should aggregate all pricing information and not release pricing data pertaining to specific cannabis businesses.
9810.1302, subp. 5(E)	Additional Tracking Requirements	This provision requires cannabis businesses to immediately notify local law enforcement of the theft or loss of a product. The State should consider setting a <i>de minimis</i> amount to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens on law enforcement agencies.
9810.1400, subp. 1	General Requirements	This subpart refers to “a business that is licensed or endorsed by the office.” For clarity, the State should articulate the legal differences between licensure and endorsement.
9810.1400, subp. 2	Universally Applicable Packaging Requirements	This subpart requires packaging to “be designed to maximize the shelf life of a product.” This terminology is broad and subjective. Child-proofed metal tins may extend the shelf life a product minimally longer than a child-proofed resealable plastic bag. But while both packaging options accommodate long shelf lives, the metal tins are much more expensive and do not accommodate automated packing methods. Cannabis businesses should not be forced to use the most expensive option when viable alternatives exist.
9810.1401, subp. 6	Labeling Requirements Applicable to Hemp-Derived Consumer Products	Packaging for hemp-derived products should be required to explicitly state “hemp-derived product.” Many hemp-derived products currently available in Minnesota incorrectly claim they come from cannabis. Packaging for hemp-derived products should not contain the word “cannabis.”
9810.1500, subp. 8	Alarm Requirements	This subpart requires cannabis businesses to have alarm systems that immediately alerts local law enforcement of an unauthorized breach. Cannabis business can purchase alarm systems with this capability. However, cannabis businesses cannot force local law enforcement to make the technological upgrades necessary to receive such alerts. This subpart also mandates a back-up alarm system that activates upon the loss of electricity. A separate system is

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		not required to operate during electrical outages. One alarm system can have its own battery backup to operate during electrical outages.
9810.1500, subp. 9	Video Surveillance Requirements	This subpart requires 24-hours-per-day comprehensive surveillance of cannabis businesses and requires the footage to be stored for 90 days. This is an incredible amount of data that is extremely expensive to store. Due to the mandatory State track & trace system, inventory anomalies and theft will be detected within a week. Footage surrounding anomalies and theft can be stored. But requiring all footage to be stored for 90 days is unnecessarily expensive while providing no additional investigative value.

Thank you again for taking our comments into consideration. Also, please feel free to contact me at [virgil.wind@millelacsband.com](mailto:virgil.wind@millelacsband.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe