

Internal Memo

Date: July 10, 2025

To: Friends and Family of Incarcerated Persons

From: Paul Schnell, Commissioner

RE: Update on the Phased Closure of MCF-Stillwater

The Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) continues to plan the first phase of operations at MCF-Stillwater prior to full closure in 2029. The programs remaining in the facility during this phase will begin by October 1, 2025, and be comprised of Earned Living Units (ELUs), expanded capacity for the Atlantis substance use disorder treatment program, and Restrictive Housing. We are planning for an incarcerated population of around 560 individuals by October 1.

MCF-Stillwater (STW) Population Update:

- The current population of MCF-Stillwater is now below 1,000.
- **Transfers within STW:**
 - The Atlantis expansion is focusing on incarcerated persons (IPs) already at STW with treatment needs.
 - IPs within STW who are selected to reside in Earned Living Units (ELU) are expected to be identified in early August.
- **Transfers into STW:**
 - IPs from other facilities who may be transferred to STW's Restrictive Housing unit will be moved after August 1.
 - IPs who will be transferred to STW's Earned Living Units (ELU) from other facilities will be moved in late August/early September.
- **Transfers out of STW:**
 - IPs continue to be transferred out of STW to other DOC facilities across the state.
 - Transfers of IPs in higher education programs with Minneapolis College and Metro State University are being reviewed through an individualized assessment process. Transfers will occur in mid-August after the summer session ends and before the fall session begins.

STW Populations and Programs:

- Earned Living Unit (ELU) applications for IPs in Faribault, Lino Lakes, Moose Lake, Rush City, and St. Cloud will be available in the coming days. You will receive additional information from your facility if you meet ELU eligibility criteria.