

Internal Memo

Date: August 14, 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) is continuing to prepare for Phase 1 of the MCF-Stillwater (STW) closure. This is an update to the progress since the August 7 memo:

MCF-Stillwater Population Update:

- The incarcerated population at STW is now under 800 incarcerated persons (IPs).
- A new process allowing for preferred cellmate requests for transferred IPs has been approved, and guidelines will be shared soon.
- The Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP) is projected to reach full capacity by September 2.

STW Populations and Programs:

- The Atlantis substance use disorder treatment program at STW is currently at 72 IPs, with a goal population of 90 by mid-September.
- Applications for STW's Earned Living Unit (ELU) are under review, with decisions – including waitlists – being finalized. Final approval decisions will be made by Commissioner Schnell.
 - STW IPs selected for the ELU will move into the new units soon.
 - IPs from other facilities selected for the ELU will also be housed in the new units.
- IPs from other facilities are currently being transferred into STW restrictive housing unit.