

BEFORE THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF THE PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION TO
CONDITIONALLY APPROVE A LONG-TERM CARE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
and
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE A LONG-TERM CARE LICENSE
for a
CLOSED HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY AT

ERCO WORLDWIDE (USA), INC.
101 HWY 73 SOUTH, NEKOOSA, WISCONSIN 54457-8235
EPA ID #: WID046536231

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to s. 289.25(3), Wis. Stats., s. NR 520.04(3), Wis. Adm. Code, and NR 670.410(1), Wis. Adm. Code., that the Department of Natural Resources (“department”) has determined that, based on a renewal license application submitted for a long-term care license for a closed hazardous waste treatment facility at ERCO Worldwide (USA), Inc. (“ERCO”):

- the department has made a preliminary determination to conditionally approve the long-term care application;
- the department intends to issue a long-term care license;
- a separate environmental analysis is not needed, as this determination is an integrated analysis action, pursuant to ss. NR 150.20(2)(a)7. and 7s., Wis. Adm. Code.

ERCO is located in the Village of Port Edwards in Wood County.

ERCO formerly operated a hazardous waste treatment facility for the handling of brine purification muds from the mercury cell chlor-alkali process in chlorine production (K071 listed hazardous waste). The hazardous waste management units in long-term care include the Muds Bin, a former waste pile for brine treatment wastes, the Saturator Purge Pit (“SPP”), a 2,000 gallon in-ground concrete tank for solids and purged brine, and the Clarifier Purge Pit (“CPP”), an in-ground concrete tank used to store brine purification muds. Vulcan Chemicals, a previous owner and operator of the ERCO facility, first filed a notice of hazardous waste activity to EPA on August 15, 1980, and an interim license was issued on May 13, 1983. On September 18, 1996, the department issued an initial Long Term Care License #6025 for the SPP, the CPP, and the Muds Bin, because “clean closure” of these units was not achieved.

Continuing hazardous waste long-term care obligations under ch. NR 670, Wis Adm. Code, including groundwater monitoring, corrective action, and financial assurance, will be covered under this long-term care license.

The administrative record, consisting of the department's preliminary determination, this notice and a fact sheet, is available for public review at the department’s website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/Comment.html>, under the tab named “Hazardous Waste.”

Pursuant to s. 289.25(3), Wis. Stats. and s. NR 670.410(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the public is invited to submit written comments concerning the application and the preliminary determination by October 29th, 2026, which is at least 45 days after the date of publication of this notice on the department's website. Written comments can be sent to: Kendra Fisher, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 141 NW Barstow St. Room 180, Waukesha WI, 53188, or via email to Kendra.Fisher@wisconsin.gov.

Members of the public can also contact Kendra Fisher to be placed on the department's mailing list of interested parties for this facility.

Pursuant to ss. 289.26 and 289.27, Wis. Stats., a public hearing concerning the preliminary determination may be requested in writing by any county, village, city or town, the applicant, or any six or more persons. The request shall indicate the interests of the municipality or persons who file the request and state the reasons why the hearing was requested. The hearing shall be conducted as an informational hearing utilizing the procedures in s. NR 2.135, Wis. Adm. Code unless the request filed indicates pursuant to s. 289.27(1), Wis. Stats., that the hearing is to be treated as a contested case, as provided under s. 227.42, Wis. Stats., and that:

1. A substantial interest of the person requesting the treatment of the hearing as contested case is injured in fact or threatened with injury by the department's action or inaction on the matter;
2. There is no evidence of legislative intent that the interest is not to be protected;
3. The injury to the person requesting the treatment of the hearing as a contested case is different in kind or degree from injury to the general public caused by the department's action or inaction on the matter; and
4. There is a dispute of material fact.

All hearing requests shall be filed with the department within 45 days after the publication date of this notice, either by delivery to the Office of the Secretary of the DNR at 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53703 or by mailing to the Secretary, Department of Natural Resources by certified mail at the following address: P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin on September 3rd, 2026.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
for the Secretary

Andrea Keller

Andrea Keller, Section Manager
Hazardous Waste Prevention & Management Section
Waste and Materials Management Program

2026-09-03 ERCO Worldwide LTC License Public Notice

Final Audit Report

2026-09-03

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