

Ms. Tera Fong, Director, Water Division
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd., W-15J
Chicago, IL 60604

Subject: Request for Approval of a Variance from Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus
Receiving Stream: Trempealeau River in Trempealeau County
Permittee: Dodge Sanitary District No 1 - WPDES Permit No. 0061191-08-0

Dear Ms. Fong:

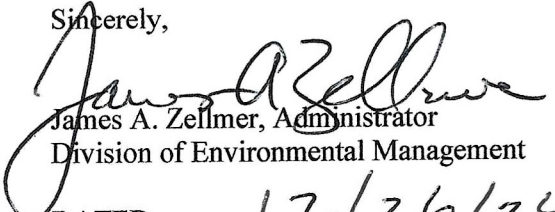
In accordance with s. 283.15, Wis. Stats., and 40 CFR 131, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (hereafter Department) requests U.S. EPA, Region 5 to approve a water quality standards variance for the above-referenced discharge. The water quality criterion for which the permittee is seeking a variance is contained in ch. NR 217, Wis. Adm. Code.

To assist your staff during their review, relevant background information pertaining to this variance is attached to this letter. The draft permit and variance were publicly noticed on October 16, 2024 and a hearing for the variance was held on December 11, 2024. The comment period has now ended. No public comments were received relating to the proposed variance.

The Department is committed to working with the permittee during the term of this variance to find a solution that will lead toward full compliance with the applicable water quality standard. Conditions on the variance, which are included in the WPDES permit, specify actions to be taken by the permittee and timetables for those actions. If the variance is approved by EPA, the Department will include the variance limitation and related conditions in the final WPDES permit.

The Department appreciates your consideration of this request. Should you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact Victoria Ziegler at 414-391-8946.

Sincerely,


James A. Zellmer, Administrator
Division of Environmental Management

DATED: 12/26/24

Attachment

e-cc

Victoria Ziegler (SER) and Jenna Monahan (WCR) - DNR
Tim Elkins - EPA Region 5

BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS VARIANCE

Receiving Stream and Classification: **Trempealeau River, warm water sport fish community**

Criterion: **0.100 mg/L total phosphorus criterion, ch. NR 102 Wis. Adm. Code**

Water Quality Based Effluent Limit: **0.300 mg/L as a monthly average and 0.100 mg/L as six-month averages.**

Existing Permit Limit: **0.300 mg/L as a monthly average and 0.100 mg/L as six-month averages.**

Permit Limit Based on Proposed Variance: **5.5mg/L monthly average**

Duration of Variance: **Five years - from the effective date of permit reissuance through the proposed permit expiration date of March 31, 2030.**

Department Rationale for Approving Variance:

The permittee evaluated compliance options and determined that all options will cause economic hardship on the community.

Conditions to be Included in WPDES Permit: **See Draft Permit being sent to EPA in Electronic Format**

Attachments:

**Facility Specific Standard Variance Data Sheet
Certification from DNR General Counsel**