

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0023183-11-0

Permittee: Village of Almena, 131 Soo Ave E , Almena, WI, 54805

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Village of Almena, 1449 6 -1/2 Street, Almena WI

Receiving Water And Location: Hay River in Hay River of Chippewa River (lower) in Barron County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Village of Almena owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment system. The plant designed to treat 143,000 gallons per day currently treats an average of 51,000 gallons per day (2020-2025 data). The treatment system discharges year-round and consists of two aerated ponds and a holding pond operated in series. The cleaned wastewater (effluent) is seasonally disinfected (May 1 through September 30 annually) by a UV system before discharging to the Hay River.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be September 30, 2030. Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Changes from the previous permit include Fecal Coliform monitoring and limits have been replaced by Escherichia coli (E. coli) and the facility applied for and receive a phosphorus multi-discharger variance.

Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance: The Department has determined that the permittee is eligible for a phosphorus multi-discharger variance (MDV) in accordance with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. The MDV provides a time extension for the permittee to comply with the final water quality based effluent limits for phosphorus while contributing funds towards nonpoint pollution control projects to reduce phosphorus. Comments on this determination are requested and additional supporting documentation and data are available upon request.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Michelle BalkLudwig, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI 54801, (715) 939-9034, michelle.balkludwig@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above-named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Wis. Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above-named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 635-4131 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER and ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Barron News-Shield, PO Box 100, Barron, WI 54812-0100

Date Notice Issued: August 27, 2025