

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0052035-10-0

Permittee: Arena Cheese Inc, PO Box 136, Arena, WI, 53503

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Arena Cheese Inc, 300 US Hwy 14, SEQ SWQ SEC 16 T8N R5E

Receiving Water And Location: Groundwaters of the Mill and Blue Mounds Creek Watershed (LW15) via Land Treatment and Land Application

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Arena Cheese in Arena, Wisconsin produces primarily Colby, Cheddar and Colby Jack cheeses. Cheese making typically occurs 5 days/week from raw milk delivery of around 76 Mlbs/yr. Whey derived from cheesemaking and from outside sources is concentrated by ultrafiltration (UF) and sold for further off-site processing. UF permeate is then either polished by reverse osmosis (RO) and reused in the plant, or as a contingency, land applied under Outfall 005. RO concentrate is either discharged to the Village of Arena wastewater treatment plant or also land applied under Outfall 005 as a contingency. Process wastewater generated from cleanup of tanks, vats, equipment, and floors following cheese making and packaging operations is land applied under Outfall 002. Boiler blowdown is discharged to an onsite overland flow land treatment system under Outfall 003. Non-contact cooling water (NCCW) is discharged to Outfall 001, a 1.1-acre surface absorption system located on site.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Zachary Watson, 1500 N Johns St, Dodgeville, WI, 53533, (608) 910-2822, Zachary.Watson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Kenzie Ostien, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 516-6487, kenzie.ostien@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above-specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the above-named basin engineer.

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 (608) 910-2822 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: Independent Star News

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 1126 Mills St, PO Box 286, Black Earth ,WI 53515

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, July 31, 2025