STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0003557-11-0

FOR THE COMPLETE PUBLIC NOTICE AND DETAILS GO TO THE WEB LINK:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html

Permittee: BUSH BROTHERS AND COMPANY INC, 600 S Highway St, AUGUSTA, WI, 54722

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Bush Brothers And Company Inc, 600 South Bush Brothers Dr., Augusta, WI

Receiving Water And Location: the groundwaters of the Lower Eau Claire River Watershed of the Lower Chippewa River Drainage Basin located in Eau Claire County

Brief Facility Description: Bush Brothers and Company produce canned beans year-round. The company constructed a new wastewater treatment plant during 2011. Treatment consists of an anaerobic digester, anoxic selector, aeration basin and clarifier. Clarified wastewater is pumped to one of two lined lagoons and then spray irrigated. Process wastewater may rarely bypass treatment and/or storage and be directly spray irrigated, after required sampling. The land treatment disposal average from 2021 was 0.141 MGD.

Bush Brothers wastewater includes noncontact cooling water (NCCW), process wastewater, can contact water and treated lagoon water. Outfall 010 is spray irrigation of process wastewater generated from the canning process (cleaning, spillage, blanching, boiler blowdown and can cooling). The process wastewater is normally treated and then stored in lagoons prior to spray irrigation. However, there may be infrequent times when the process wastewater is not treated and stored in lagoons but instead directly spray irrigated. Outfall 003 is can-contact water or chemically treated central wet well water that is discharged to the seepage cell/absorption pond. Sludge generated in the anaerobic reactor is blended with the final effluent through outfall 012 and Spray irrigated. There are also two outfalls that track the spray irrigation of lagoon wastewater either mixed with waste activated sludge (WAS) (Outfall 011) or waste anaerobic sludge (WANS) (Outfall 012).

Changes proposed for this issuance include separating field 4 (Carlson) and field 5 (Emmanual) in the groundwater monitoring well network and some changes to the designations of the groundwater wells throughout the system. Various groundwater preventative action limits (PALs) and alternative concentration limits (ACLs) for some wells have also changed slightly and monitoring frequencies for wells increased from 3/yr to quarterly. In addition, compliance schedules are proposed to gather more data on groundwater wells 811 and 812, as well as an updated land treatment management plan.

Permit Drafter’s Name, Address, Phone and Email: Angela Parkhurst, DNR, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 839-3836, Angela.Parkhurst@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer’s Name, Address, Phone and Email: Adebowale Adesanwo, 890 Spruce Street, Baldwin, WI, 54002, (715) 684-2914, adebowale.adesanwo@wisconsin.gov

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

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 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.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule an 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, Stats. Information on requesting a hearing is at the above web link.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be reviewed on the internet at the above web link or may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter’s office during office hours. Information on this permit may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter 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. 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.