

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0036064-07-1

Permittee: CHRISTMAS MOUNTAIN SANITARY DISTRICT, PO Box 207, Wisconsin Dells, WI, 53965

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Christmas Mountain Sanitary District WWTF, S944 CHRISTMAS MOUNTAIN ROAD, SWQ, NWQ, SEC 13, T13N, R5E, DELLONA TWP, WISCONSIN DELLS, WISCONSIN

Receiving Water And Location: Groundwater and wetland adjacent to Spring Brook of the Lower Wisconsin River Basin (Dell Creek Watershed, LW26 – Lower Wisconsin River Basin) in Sauk County

Brief Facility Description: Christmas Mountain Sanitary District, an existing discharger, operates a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) wastewater treatment plant providing secondary treatment and nitrogen removal for domestic wastewater received from the resort and sanitary district. Treated, disinfected secondary effluent is spray irrigated from a holding pond on designated golf course fairways during warm weather months (March through November) and/or subsurface applied via a drip irrigation system year-round, but particularly during winter. Samples are taken after the holding pond for wastewater discharged to outfall 001 for spray irrigation.

Discharge to a wetland and drip irrigation system within the Christmas Mountain Sanitary District provides alternate discharge outfall. Wastewater discharged to the wetland flows through the effluent discharge from SBR #1 and #2 to the EQ Tank and sampling is completed in a manhole after the EQ Tank. At this time, the permittee does not have the ability to chlorinate water discharged to the wetland. However, this permit requires disinfection during May through September. No discharge to the wetland may occur May through September until both *E. coli* and/or chlorine limits, if chlorine is used for disinfection, are met. Wastewater is then directed to Outfall 006 (the wetlands) via the same piping as the wastewater discharge to the Drip Irrigation (Outfall 003). At this time, the Drip Irrigation system is out of service and the department plans to inactivate Outfall 003 until the permittee notifies the department of use of Outfall 003. The wastewater discharged to the wetland must be disinfected May through September. The WWTP is designed to treat an average daily flow of 0.142 MGD and presently receives an average of 0.065 MGD for treatment.

Previous permits required the wetlands (Outfall 006) to be evaluated on a monthly and annual basis. These evaluations have found no ponding or channelization of flow or adverse impacts to the wetland. The proposed permit continues with only the annual wetland evaluation.

Groundwater monitoring wells around the spray irrigation system monitor groundwater quality. Sludge has typically been handled by a licensed sanitary pumper and stored and land applied off site following department regulations.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI, 53032, (920) 450-4078, Jennifer.Jerich@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Tanner Connors, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 575-6891, Tanner.Connors@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Permit modification -01 completed to update the fecal coliform limit for Outfall 001 spray irrigation. The permittee requested reevaluation of the fecal coliform limit for Outfall 001 following the updated data and facility capacity for disinfection. Following further evaluation, the department determined that 400 CFU/100ml geometric mean monthly average is the appropriate standard limitation for wastewater reuse discharged to groundwater and land treatment outfalls when there is recreational use or public access to the land treatment area.

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

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 (920) 450-4078 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 AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Wisconsin Dells Events, 1640 La Dawn Dr, PO Box 470, Portage, WI, 53901-0470

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, October 24, 2024