STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0020737-11-0

Permittee: City of Sparta, 201 West Oak Street, Sparta, WI, 54656-2369

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Sparta Wastewater Treatment Facility, 805 Richgruber Rd, Sparta, WI

Receiving Water And Location: La Crosse River in Little La Crosse River Watershed of Bad Axe - La Crosse River Basin in Monroe County

Brief Facility Description: The Sparta Wastewater Treatment Facility treats domestic and industrial wastewater from the City of Sparta, Northern Engraving Company, Actus Nutrition, Century Foods, and the leachate from Monroe, Jackson and Vernon County landfills. The actual annual average effluent flow from June 2025 – May 2026 was 1.4 MGD. The facility has an annual average design flow of 2.2 million gallons per day (MGD). Primary treatment consists of fine screening, Pista grit removal, cyclone grit separation and wash, and four primary clarifiers. Secondary treatment is achieved via activated sludge (three basins) and two final clarifiers. Phosphorus is removed chemically with Hydriclear (Aluminum chloride) Waste activated sludge from the primary clarifier is thickened with polymer addition on a gravity belt thickener before being sent to the anerobic digesters. The sludge is transferred to and held in a storage tank prior to land application on Department approved sites. Effluent is disinfected seasonally using ultraviolet light prior to discharge to the La Crosse River. During the last permit term the trickling filter was taken offline due to equipment failure and associated repair costs. Sludge will no longer be thickened on the gravity belt thickener, but instead a Suspended Air Flotation unit will be used. The Department approved the water quality trading (WQT) plan (WQT-2026-0010) submitted by the permittee as a way to demonstrate compliance with water quality based effluent limits (WQBELs) for total phosphorus. The plan provides calculations and a table that shows the amount of phosphorus credits that will be available each year.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Holly Heldstab, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-0483, Holly.Heldstab@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Logan Rubeck, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 450-5967, logan.rubeck@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 (715) 492-0483 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.