

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0022675-11-0

Permittee: CITY OF WASHBURN, PO Box 638, WASHBURN, WI, 54891

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Washburn City of, 10th Avenue West, Washburn, Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: Lake Superior within the Bayfield Peninsula Southeast Watershed of Lake Superior Drainage Basin in Bayfield County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The City of Washburn owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment system. The plant designed to treat 380,000 gallons per day currently treats an average of 229,000 gallons per day (2020-2024 data). The facility is an activated sludge plant comprised of a bar gate, two fine screens and a grit chamber for solids removal followed by extended aeration basin and a final clarifier. Alum is added to the aeration basin to provide phosphorus removal. Some of the solids from the clarifier (return activated sludge or RAS) are returned to the aeration basin to reseed the activated sludge process and the remaining solids (waste activated sludge or WAS) is pumped to an aerobic digester for further treatment. Sludge from the digester is pumped to reed beds for storage and further dewatering by native phragmites australis americana. Effluent is disinfected with a UV system before being discharged to Lake Superior.

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: [1] Effluent fecal coliform monitoring and limits have been replaced with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits. [2] Effluent annual nitrogen (TKN, N02+N03 and total nitrogen) monitoring is required. [3] Effluent PFOS and PFOA monitoring, and minimization schedule has been included. [4] Two effluent acute WET Testing and two chronic WET tests are required. [5] An effluent phosphorus optimization schedule is included. [6] Sludge monitoring for metals, PCB and PFAS monitoring is required once.

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: Eric deVenecia, DNR, 1701 N 4TH ST, Superior, WI 54880, (715) 685-4155, Eric.DeVenecia@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: Wisconsin State Journal

Date Notice Issued: August 19, 2025