

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0021008-11-0

Permittee: CITY OF COLUMBUS, 105 North Dickason Boulevard, Columbus, WI, 53925

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Columbus Wastewater Treatment Facility, 537 RIVER ROAD, COLUMBUS, WISCONSIN (NWQ, NWQ, SEC 19, T10N, R13E, DODGE COUNTY)

Receiving Water And Location: Crawfish River in Lower Crawfish River Watershed of Upper Rock River Basin in Dodge County

Brief Facility Description: The City of Columbus operates a wastewater treatment plant that serves a population of approximately 5500 residents with multiple industrial contributors. Columbus also treats wastewater from the Elba Sanitary District and the Village of Fall River as satellite collection systems. The facility consists of activated sludge treatment preceded by primary screening and grit removal, followed by secondary clarifiers, tertiary sand filters, chlorine disinfection and dechlorination, and post aeration. Treated effluent is discharged via outfall 010 to the Crawfish River on a continuous basis at an average 1 MGD. Sludge that is produced is aerobically digested, thickened by belt press with polymer, and stored on-site as cake prior to land application on Department approved sites.

An approved blending system is in place to handle high influent flow conditions. When influent flows peak during high precipitation events, the portion of the flow rate in excess of 5 MGD is diverted into blending tanks, which are repurposed aeration basin tanks that are otherwise unused during normal operations. Blended flow receives grit removal, primary clarification in the blending tank, and bypasses the aeration basins, final clarifiers, and tertiary filtration, recombining with fully treated effluent and receiving disinfection and cascade aeration prior to discharge to the Crawfish River.

An additional in-plant flow diversion defined as an Other Bypass occurs at the tertiary sand filtration unit during high flow conditions. When flow from the secondary clarifiers exceeds approximately 1.2 MGD, effluent from the secondary clarifiers will overflow a weir structure prior to the sand filters and be directed around the sand filters, recombining with tertiary treated effluent prior to disinfection, dichlorination, and post-aeration at the cascade steps prior to discharge at outfall 010. Effluent flow will be upgraded and more represented after completion of the flow meter upgrade to include a flow meter after disinfection.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, Mailing address: Lisa Creegan, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI, 53711 (920) 450-4078, Jennifer.Jerich@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jordan Main, 141 NW Barstow St, Room 180, Waukesha, WI 53188, (608) 535-0368, jordan.main@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 (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.