

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0040223-09-0

Permittee: Dairyland Power Coop Alma site, 500 OLD STH 35, ALMA, WI, 54610

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Dairyland Power Coop Alma site, 500 Old State Hwy 35, Alma, Wisconsin, 54610

Receiving Water And Location: East bank of Mississippi River, south of J.P. Madgett screenhouse. N44 18.363' W91 54.787'

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Dairyland Power Cooperative owns and operates the J.P. Madgett Unit coal-fired power station near Alma, Wisconsin.

Annual reporting for Percent of Intake Water Used Exclusively For Cooling and Flow Rate has been added to sample point 703.

Temperature monitoring has been removed from sample point 001 and 101.

Limits for Total Residual Chlorine has been added, the temperature limits have been updated, and Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) monitoring has been removed from sample point 006.

Technology based effluent limits and mercury monitoring have been moved from outfall 006 to the newly created internal sampling point 106 to allow the permittee to flexibility to discharge wastewater via either of two existing outfalls.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jonathan Hill, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921, (608) 267-7627, Jonathan.Hill@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Michael Chang, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 491-3639, michael.chang@wisconsin.gov

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

Proposed Mercury Variance: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) of **1.3 ng/L** for mercury is needed to protect wildlife and human health in the above-named receiving water. The permittee has applied for an alternative mercury effluent limitation (AMEL). The application included a pollutant minimization program (PMP) plan for mercury as required under s. NR 106.145(8), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department concludes that the permittee is eligible for a variance based on the information submitted, information on file and the findings provided in s. NR 106.145(1), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department and the permittee have mutually agreed upon an AMEL of **4.6 ng/L**, expressed as a daily maximum, continued influent and effluent monitoring, and permit language requiring implementation of the PMP. The Department proposes to grant the AMEL, which represents a variance to the water quality standard used to derive the WQBEL, as provided for under s. NR 106.145(6), Wis. Adm. Code. The designated use of the receiving water will not change as a result of the variance. This mercury variance must be approved by USEPA prior to its inclusion in the final reissued permit.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: August 14, 2024 from 1 pm until 4 pm or until completed, in the County Board room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Buffalo County Clerk's Office at 407 S. 2nd St. Alma, WI 54610.

Virtual Hearing Attendance Option (Zoom):

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcOmrqzvwHNJp60zd01eIDz229bnA4O7W](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEvcOmrqzvwHNJp60zd01eIDz229bnA4O7W)

Hearing Officer Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Geisa Thielen, Department of Natural Resources, West Central Region Headquarters, 1300 W Clairemont Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-2961.

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to s. 283.49, Wis. Stats, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to ensure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above-named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. 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.

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 (608) 267-7627 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: Buffalo County News, 123 W Main Street, Mondovi, WI, 54755

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, June 27, 2024