

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0053902-09-0

Permittee: DECATUR CHEESE COOPERATIVE, W1668 Hwy F, Brodhead, WI, 53520

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Decatur Cheese Cooperative, SEC 29 T2N R9E

Receiving Water And Location: Groundwaters of the Lower Sugar River Watershed (SP11)

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Decatur Cheese Cooperative produces Havarti, Lacy Swiss, Brick, Farmer, Colby, Longhorn, Butterkase, Queso Blanco and Muenster cheeses. Cheesemaking typically occurs 6 days/week from raw milk delivery from the milk cooperative's producers. Untreated wastewater is generated throughout the cheese making process and is sent year-round to one of three sprayfields (Field B, D and E). The sprayfield utilizes a single spraygun that is moved multiple times per day. In 2023, Decatur sent approximately 2.14 MG of wastewater to their sprayfields. The sprayfield is surrounded by a groundwater monitoring system consisting of six groundwater monitoring wells.

- The monitoring frequency for total phosphorus and BOD5 were changed from quarterly to monthly at Sample Point 101.
- The annual chloride loading rate has been added as a monitoring requirement for Outfalls 004 and 006.
- The annual nitrogen loading rate for Outfall 006 has been reduced from 600 lbs/ac/yr to 300 lbs/ac/yr.
- The ACL for chloride was replaced by the NR 140 Groundwater Quality Standard Prevent Action Limit and Enforcement Standard for the groundwater monitoring system.
- The ACL for nitrite+nitrate was updated for the groundwater monitoring system.
- The indicator parameter PALs for organic nitrogen, total dissolved solids, COD and pH were updated for the groundwater monitoring system.
- Total Dissolved Phosphorus, Dissolved Oxygen and Specific Conductance Field were added to the monitoring requirements for the groundwater monitoring system.
- Total Phosphorus, Water Extractable Phosphorus and Total Recoverable Potassium were added to the monitoring requirements for Outfall 003.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Zachary Watson, 1500 N Johns St, Dodgeville, WI, 53533, 608-910-2822, zachary.watson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Zachary Watson, 1500 N Johns Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533, 608-910-2822, zachary.watson@wisconsin.gov

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

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 608-910-2822 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:

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER:

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, February 19, 2025