Eau Galle Cheese LLC Public Noticed Permit Fact Sheet

General Information

Permit Number	WI-0003182-12-0
Permittee	Eau Galle Cheese Factory LLC, N6765 State Hwy 25, Durand, WI 54736-4209
Permitted Facility	Eau Galle Cheese Factory LLC, N6765 State Hwy 25, Durand, WI 54736
Permit Term	February 01, 2026 to December 31, 2030
Discharge Location	E1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 17, T25N, R13W, Town of Waubeek
Receiving Water	the groundwaters of the Lower Chippewa River Drainage Basin in Pepin County

Facility Description

The Eau Galle Cheese Factory manufactures cheese and butterfat from milk and whey, which is separated and sold to other dairies. Eau Galle's previous wastewater treatment facility consisted of a holding pond for land spreading wastewater including whey permeate, wash water, regeneration wastewater from the water supply water softening and a nitrate ion exchange system, and boiler blow down water. In addition, the facility had a seepage cell for noncontact cooling water (NCCW) discharge. The department has approved plans for an upgrade to the facility for the discharge of noncontact cooling water (NCCW), which is anticipated to be complete in March 2026.

The upgraded facility consists of an equalization (EQ) tank followed by three sequential batch reactors (SBRs). The discharge from the SBRs flows to an effluent lift station, where it is combined with NCCW before it is discharged to newly constructed seepage cells. Sludge from the SBR tanks will be stored in a sludge storage tank, and brine discharged from the cheese production process shall be stored in a brine storage tank. In 2024 Eau Galle land spread about 18 MG of industrial wastewater. A groundwater monitoring well system will be installed onsite to monitor impacts to groundwater.

Substantial Compliance Determination

Enforcement During Last Permit: While Eau Galle Cheese is not currently involved in any enforcement action, the facility had some missing data, late DMR submittal, and compliance schedule report issues that have been addressed. After a desktop review of all discharge monitoring reports, land application reports, compliance schedule items, and a desktop compliance inspection on 10/27/2025, this facility has been found to be in substantial compliance with its current permit.

Compliance determination made by Wale Adesanwo on 10/29/2025.

Sample Point Descriptions

Sample Point Designation		
Sample Point Number	**Discharge Flow, Units, and Averaging Period**	**Sample Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)**
003	Outfall to old seepage cell: 0.24 MG (2024)	Representative samples shall be taken prior to discharge to the existing seepage area. Discharge is limited to noncontact cooling water (NCCW) prior to completion of the new seepage cells, at which time Outfall 003 will be discontinued and Outfall 006 will be activated. Permittee shall notify the Department within seven days prior to completion and discharge to new seepage cells.
006	New Outfall to new seepage cells	Representative samples shall be taken prior to discharge to the new seepage area. Discharge is limited to process wastewater and noncontact cooling water (NCCW) after completion of the new seepage cells, at which time Outfall 003 will be discontinued and Outfall 006 will be activated. Permittee shall notify the Department within seven days prior to completion and discharge to new seepage cells.
002	Land application of process wastewater: 18 MG (2024)	Representative samples shall be collected prior to land application. The discharge is limited to whey permeate, process wastewater boiler blowdown and water supply system regeneration wastewater from water softening and nitrate ion exchange.
005	Land application of brine	Representative samples shall be collected prior to land application. The discharge is limited to brine from the brine storage tank. If the waste is sent to another permitted facility instead of being land applied, monitoring is not required.
007	New Outfall – for emergency land application of untreated process wastewater only	Representative samples shall be collected before emergency land application. The discharge is process water (limited to whey permeate, process wastewater, boiler blowdown, and water supply system regeneration wastewater from water softening and nitrate ion exchange) sent to the Equalization (EQ) tank. This outfall is for emergency purposes only.
008	New Outfall – Sludge from the SBR tanks that goes into a sludge storage tank	Representative samples shall be collected before land application. The discharge is limited to sludge from the sludge storage tank.

Sample Point Designation For Groundwater Monitoring Systems			
System	**Sample Pt Number**	**Well Name**	**Comments**
New Seepage/absorption ponds	801	Well 1 for New Absorption Pond	Wells not installed yet at the time of permit reissuance
New Seepage/absorption ponds	802	Well 2 for New Absorption Pond	
New Seepage/absorption ponds	803	Well 3 for New Absorption Pond	

Permit Requirements

1 Land Treatment – Monitoring and Limitations

1.1 Sample Point Number: 003- EXISTING OUTFALL to SEEPAGE

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Flow Rate		gpd	Daily	Estimated	
Temperature		deg F	Weekly	Grab	

Changes from Previous Permit:

Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements were evaluated for this permit term and no changes were required in this permit section. When the new seepage cells are complete this outfall will be discontinued.

Explanation of Limits and Monitoring Requirements

All requirements for land treatment of industrial wastewater are determined in accordance with ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code. All categorical limits are based on ch. NR 214 Subchapter II (12). Wis. Adm. Code. More information on the limitations can be found in the October 22, 2025 groundwater evaluation from Woody Myers titled "Groundwater Evaluation Report for Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC, WI-0003182".

1.2 Sample Point Number: 006- NEW OUTFALL to SEEPAGE

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Flow Rate		gpd	Daily	Total Daily	
Nitrogen, Total		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate Total		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	
Nitrogen, Ammonia (NH3-N) Total		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	
Nitrogen, Organic Total		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	
Chloride		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	
Solids, Total Dissolved		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	
pH Field		su	Daily	Composite	

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
BOD5, Total		mg/L	Monthly	Composite	

Changes from Previous Permit:

Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements were evaluated. This is a new outfall to track the discharge to the new seepage cells that are planned to come online in 2026.

Explanation of Limits and Monitoring Requirements

All requirements for land treatment of industrial wastewater are determined in accordance with ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code. All categorical limits are based on ch. NR 214 Subchapter II (12). Wis. Adm. Code. More information on the limitations can be found in the October 22, 2025 groundwater evaluation from Woody Myers titled "Groundwater Evaluation Report for Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC, WI-0003182".

2 Groundwater – Monitoring and Limitations

2.1 Groundwater Monitoring System for New Seepage/absorption ponds

Location of Monitoring system: around the new absorptions ponds located in the E1/2 of the NW1/4, Section 17, T25N R13W, Town of Wauheek

Groundwater Monitoring Wells to be Sampled: Well 1, Well 2 and Well 3 for new seepage cells/absorption pond

Groundwater Monitoring Wells Used to Evaluate Background Groundwater Quality: Yet to be determined

Groundwater Monitoring Wells Used for Point of Standards Application: Yet to be determined

Parameter	**Units**	**Preventative Action Limit**	**Enforcement Standard**	**Frequency**
Depth To Groundwater	feet	N/A	N/A	Quarterly
Groundwater Elevation	feet MSL	N/A	N/A	Quarterly
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate (as N) Dissolved	mg/L	2.0	10	Quarterly
Chloride Dissolved	mg/L	125	250	Quarterly
pH Field	su	N/A	N/A	Quarterly
Nitrogen, Ammonia Dissolved	mg/L	0.97	9.7	Quarterly
Nitrogen, Organic Dissolved	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Quarterly
Solids, Total Dissolved	mg/L	N/A	N/A	Quarterly

Changes from Previous Permit:

Groundwater monitoring requirements are new for this permit term due to the addition of the new seepage cell system (Outfall 006).

Explanation of Limits and Monitoring Requirements

Groundwater limits and requirements are determined in accordance with ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code. Indicator parameter Preventive Action Limit (PAL) values are established per s. NR 140.20, Wis. Adm. Code. For more information, please refer to the October 22, 2025 groundwater evaluation from Woody Myers titled "Groundwater Evaluation Report for Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC, WI-0003182".

3 Land Application

3.1 Sample Point Number: 002- LANDSPREADING of INDUSTRIAL WW

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Chloride		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Phosphorus, Total		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Phosphorus, Water Extractable		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Potassium, Total Recoverable		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	

Changes from Previous Permit:

Sludge limitations and monitoring requirements were evaluated for this permit term. In order to better track compliance and impacts on soil and groundwater, the following changes were made from the previous permit: total phosphorus, water extractable phosphorus and potassium were added.

Explanation of Limits and Monitoring Requirements

Requirements for land application of industrial sludge are determined in accordance with ch. NR 214 Wis. Adm. Code.

3.2 Sample Point Number: 005- LANDSPREADING of BRINE

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl		mg/L	Annual	Grab	
Chloride		mg/L	Annual	Grab	
Phosphorus, Total		mg/L	Annual	Grab	
Phosphorus, Water Extractable		mg/L	Annual	Grab	

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Potassium, Total Recoverable		mg/L	Annual	Grab	

Changes from Previous Permit:

Sludge limitations and monitoring requirements were evaluated for this permit term. To better track compliance and impacts on soil and groundwater, the following changes were made from the previous permit: 1) total phosphorus, water extractable phosphorus and potassium were added, and 2) volume, BOD and pH were removed.

Explanation of Limits and Monitoring Requirements

Requirements for land application of industrial sludge are determined in accordance with ch. NR 214 Wis. Adm. Code.

3.2.1 Sampling Point (Outfall) 007 - EMERGENCY LAND APP

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Chloride		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Phosphorus, Total		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Phosphorus, Water Extractable		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Potassium, Total Recoverable		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	

3.2.2 Sampling Point (Outfall) 008 - SLUDGE FROM SBR STORAGE TANK

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Solids, Total		Percent	Annual	Grab	
Chloride		Percent	Monthly	Grab	
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl		Percent	Annual	Grab	
Nitrogen, Ammonium (NH_4-N) Total		Percent	Annual	Grab	

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	**Limit Type**	**Limit and Units**	**Sample Frequency**	**Sample Type**	**Notes**
Phosphorus, Total		Percent	Annual	Grab	
Phosphorus, Water Extractable		% of Tot P	Annual	Grab	
Potassium, Total Recoverable		Percent	Annual	Grab	
pH Field		su	Annual	Grab	
PFOA + PFOS		µg/kg	Annual	Calculated	Report the sum of PFOA and PFOS. See PFAS Permit Sections for more information.
PFAS Dry Wt			Annual	Grab	Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances based on updated DNR PFAS List. See PFAS Permit Sections for more information.

4 Schedules

4.1 Land Treatment Management Plan

A management plan is required for the land treatment system.

Required Action	Due Date
Land Treatment Management Plan: Submit an updated management plan to optimize the land treatment system performance and demonstrate compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 214. The management plan shall be consistent with the requirements of this permit, and NR 214.14 Wis. Adm. Code. To ensure this consistency, the management plan shall address the information identified in NR 214.14. The plan shall specify information on pretreatment processes, load and rest schedules, scheduled maintenance, vegetative cover control and removal, operational strategies for periods of adverse weather, monitoring procedures and any other pertinent information. If operational changes are needed, the Land Treatment Management Plan shall be amended by submitting a written request to the Department for approval of such amendments. Included in the plan update shall be the following: All monitoring well locations shall be reported to the department on a plan map drawn to a specific scale. The exact latitude/longitude location of the groundwater monitoring wells shall be included, in decimal degrees. The map shall indicate structure boundaries, property boundaries, any nearby surface waters and a north arrow. The plan shall show the wells in relation to each other, to property and structure boundaries and to a common reference point on a horizontal grid system. The origin of the grid system shall be located according to latitude and longitude or according to the state plane coordinate system. The exact vertical location of the top of the well casing shall be referenced to the nearest benchmark for the national geodetic survey datum to an accuracy of 0.01 feet. This plan map shall show the exact location of the installed well on a	05/31/2026

horizontal grid system which is accurate within 1 foot. The groundwater monitoring well latitude/longitude need to be provided in decimal degrees.	

Explanation of Schedule: An up-to-date Land Treatment Management plan is a standard requirement in reissued industrial permits per s. NR 214.13(5)(e) Wis. Adm. Code.

4.2 Land Application Management Plan

A management plan is required for the land application system.

Required Action	Due Date
Land Application Management Plan: Submit a management plan to optimize the land application system performance and demonstrate compliance with Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 214. The plan shall specify information on pretreatment processes, site identification on plat and soil maps, aerial photographs, if available, description of all site limitations, vegetative cover management and removal, availability of storage, type of transporting and spreading vehicle, load and rest schedules, monitoring procedures, contingency plans for periods of adverse weather or odor or nuisance abatement and any other pertinent information. If operational changes are needed, the Land Application Management Plan shall be amended by submitting a written request to the Department for approval of such amendments.	05/31/2026

Explanation of Schedule: An up-to-date Land Application Management plan is a standard requirement in reissued industrial permits per s. NR 214.17(6)(c) Wis. Adm. Code.

Other Comments

Publishing Newspaper: Courier-Wedge, 103 W. Main St., PO Box 190, Durand, WI 54736-0190

The current permit is set to expire on 03/31/2027. The permittee is installing a new seepage cell system. Rather than modify the permit to incorporate the new monitoring requirements and reflect the new system, and then reissue it within 1.5 years, the current permit is being revoked and the new permit will be reissued early.

Attachments

NR 140 Groundwater Evaluation Report: October 22, 2025 groundwater evaluation from Woody Myers titled "Groundwater Evaluation Report for Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC, WI-0003182".

Justification Of Any Waivers From Permit Application Requirements

No waivers requested or granted as part of this permit reissuance

Prepared By: Holly Heldstab, Wastewater Specialist **Date:** January 2, 2026

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: October 22, 2025

TO: File

FROM: Woody Myers - WCR

SUBJECT: Groundwater Evaluation Report for Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC, WI-0003182

Site Information

Eau Galle Cheese Factory, LLC is regulated as an industrial facility and is located at N6765 STH 25, Durand, Pepin County. Wastewater will be treated and discharged to groundwater via infiltration by way of a new absorption pond system located in the E ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 17, T25N, R13W, Town of Wauheek.

Land Treatment Effluent & Groundwater Evaluation Summary

Table 1 Land Treatment Outfall Sampling Point Parameters and Limits
Outfall 006 Absorption Ponds

Parameter	Proposed Permit WI-0003182-12	
	Limits and Units	Limit Type
Flow Rate	- MGD	
Nitrogen, Total	- mg/l	
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate	- mg/l	
Nitrogen. Ammonia	- mg/l	
Nitrogen, Organic	- mg/l	
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl	- mg/l	
Chloride	- mg/l	
Total Dissolved Solids	- mg/l	
pH, lab	- mg/l	
BOD_5	- mg/l	

Table 2 Monitoring Wells

Well	Proposed Permit WI-0003182-12	
	Well Location	Well Designation
801	Not installed yet	
802		
803		

Table 3 Groundwater Quality Standards

Parameter	Proposed WI-0003182-12	
	PAL	ES
Depth to Groundwater	N/A	N/A
Groundwater Elevation	N/A	N/A
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate	2.0 mg/l	10.0 mg/l
Nitrogen Total Kjeldahl	N/A	N/A
Nitrogen, Ammonia	0.97 mg/l	9.7 mg/l
Nitrogen, Organic	- mg/l	N/A
Chloride	125 mg/l	250 mg/l
pH, Field	- su	N/A
Total Dissolved Solids	- mg/l	N/A

Geology

The bedrock under this facility is the Eau Claire Formation which is comprised of a subangular poorly sorted fine-grained sandstone. Glauconite deposits are common with flaggy beds separated by green shale (*Bedrock Geology of Wisconsin, Regional Map Series West-Central Sheet*, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS), 1988). Bedrock is anticipated to be greater than 200 feet below ground surface (bgs) (*Depth to Bedrock in Wisconsin,* WGNHS, 1973). Surface soil primarily consists of the Onaway-Ossineke sandy loam and the Seelyeville and Markey muck (USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey).

Hydrogeology

Site groundwater flow direction was not calculated. Regional groundwater flow is predominantly to the east in this area of Pepin County (*Generalized Water-Table Elevation Map of Pepin County, Wisconsin*, WGNHS, 1993). The site is approximately 5,150 feet west of Chippewa River. There are thirteen wells (municipal, other than municipal, private and high-capacity) within a 1,500-foot range of this facility's groundwater discharge.

Land Treatment Effluent Quality and Loading Rates

Eau Galle Cheese recently installed a new land treatment system of absorption ponds for their process wastewater. The facility has an absorption pond used for the non-contact cooling water.

Groundwater Monitoring System and Sampling Frequency

Established groundwater quality standards are found in Table 1 Public Health Groundwater Quality Standards s. NR 140.10 Wis. Adm. Code, and Table 2 Public Welfare Groundwater Standards s. NR 140.12 Wis. Adm. Code. The thresholds of these standards are the Enforcement Standard (ES) and the Preventative Action Limit (PAL).

Proposed Groundwater Monitoring Requirements Permit WI-0003182-12

Table 4 Groundwater Quality Sampling Frequency and Limits
Outfall 006 Absorption Ponds

Sample Point	Well Name	Sample Frequency	Well Designation
801	YTBD	Quarterly	YTBD
802	YTBD	Quarterly	YTBD
803	YTBD	Quarterly	YTBD
Parameter	PAL	ES	Source
Depth to Groundwater	N/A	N/A	Measured
Groundwater Elevation	N/A	N/A	Measured
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate	2.0 mg/l	10.0 mg/l	NR 140 Table 1
Nitrogen, Ammonia	0.97 mg/l	9.7 mg/l	NR 140 Table 1
Nitrogen, Organic	- mg/l	N/A	Measured
Chloride	125 mg/l	250 mg/l	NR 140 Table 2
pH, Field	- su	N/A	Measured
Total Dissolved Solids	- mg/l	N/A	Measured

Conclusions

The facility is adding a new land treatment system (absorption ponds) in addition to the non-contact cooling water pond.

The Outfall 006 sampling point (effluent) parameters are based on ch. NR 214, Wis. Adm. Code requirements. There are no limits recommended at this time.

The groundwater monitoring wells have not been installed so there are no background groundwater quality results to evaluate or to calculate potential alternate concentration limits (ACLs) or indicator parameter PALs. However, any future results will be evaluated using the procedure called out in s. NR 140.24, Wis. Adm. Code for comparing the down-gradient results to that of the up-gradient results.

Compliance Schedule Recommendations

A map is required of the land treatment system per ch. NR 141.065 Wis. Adm. Code.

"All monitoring well locations shall be reported to the department on a plan map drawn to a specific scale. The map shall indicate structure boundaries, property boundaries, any nearby surface waters and a north arrow. The plan shall show the wells in relation to each other, to property and structure boundaries and to a common reference point on a horizontal grid system. The origin of the grid system shall be located according to latitude and longitude or according to the state plane coordinate system. The exact vertical location of the top of the well casing shall be referenced to the nearest benchmark for the national geodetic survey datum to an accuracy of 0.01 feet. This plan map shall show the exact location of the installed well on a horizontal grid system which is accurate to within 1 foot."

The s. NR 214.12, (5)(b) Wis. Adm. Code requires a land disposal management plan for facilities with land disposal systems. The facility should review their plan within 90 days of permit reissuance and any revisions should be submitted to the department for approval.