

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE/REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0003182-12-0

Permittee: Eau Galle Cheese Factory LLC, N6765 State Hwy 25, Durand, WI, 54736-4209

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Eau Galle Cheese Factory LLC, N6765 State Hwy 25, Durand, WI 54736

Receiving Water And Location: the groundwaters of the Lower Chippewa River Drainage Basin in Pepin County

Brief Facility Description: The Eau Galle Cheese Factory manufactures cheese, as well as butterfat from milk and whey, which is separated and sold to other dairies. Eau Galle has upgraded its wastewater treatment facility from a holding pond for land application of wastewater (whey permeate, wash water, regeneration wastewater from Eau Galle Cheese's water supply water softening and nitrate ion exchange system, as well as boiler blow down) and a seepage/absorption pond for noncontact cooling water (NCCW), to a sequential batch reactor (SBR) that discharges the wastewater to seepage cells after it is combined with NCCW. In 2024 Eau Galle land applied about 18 MG of industrial wastewater. A groundwater monitoring well system will be installed onsite to monitor impacts to groundwater.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Holly Heldstab, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-0483, Holly.Heldstab@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Adebowale Adesanwo, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-4047, adebowale.adesanwo@wisconsin.gov

Reason For Revoke/Reissue: 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.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above-specified WPDES permit should be revoked/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 (715) 492-0483 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.

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

Date Notice Issued: February 12, 2026