

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0022942-11-0

Permittee: Ellsworth Coop Creamery, 232 N Wallace St, ELLSWORTH, WI, 54011

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Ellsworth Coop Creamery, 232 N Wallace St, Ellsworth WI 54011

Receiving Water And Location: Isabella Creek in the Trimbelle River and Isabelle Creek Watershed of Lower Chippewa River Basin in Pierce County

Brief Facility Description: Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery receives approximately 2,000,000 pounds of milk each day and processes a maximum of 1,950,000 pounds of milk per day into cheddar cheese, whey powder and cream. Excess milk can be transferred to other dairy facilities. Noncontact cooling water is also discharged to the head of the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The WWTF consists of a high strength diversion tank, equalization tank, a spill tank, recirculation tank, bio-tower, intermittent clarification, three activated sludge tanks, chemical addition for phosphorus removal (aluminum sulphate and polymer) and final clarification. Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery discharged an average of 0.191 million gallons per day (MGD) of effluent to Isabelle Creek in 2025. Solids removed during the treatment process are stabilized and stored in an aerobic sludge digester. Approximately 129 dry US tons of sludge were land applied on approved agricultural sites in 2025. Sanitary waste is sent for treatment to the Village of Ellsworth WWTF.

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

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.

The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for chloride is needed in this permit to protect aquatic life. While the permittee requested a variance to the chloride WQBEL pursuant to s. NR 106.83(2)(b), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee and the Department have been unable to agree on voluntary source reduction activities and both an interim limitation and a target value/target limitation to be included as permit requirements. Consequently, pursuant to s. NR 106.83(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department has included a chloride WQBEL in the proposed permit.

Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance: The Department has determined that the permittee is eligible for a phosphorus multi-discharger variance (MDV) in accordance with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. The MDV provides a time extension for the permittee to comply with the final water quality based effluent limits for phosphorus while contributing funds towards nonpoint pollution control projects to reduce phosphorus. Comments on this determination are requested and additional supporting documentation and data are available upon request.

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.