

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0027618-09-0

Permittee: Grande Cheese Company, 250 Camelot Drive, Fond du Lac, WI, 54935

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Grande Cheese Company - Chilton, W3286 CTH F, Chilton, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Unnamed tributary to the South Branch of the Manitowoc River in Calumet County

Brief Facility Description : Grande Cheese Company (formerly Tillamook and Foremost Farms USA) plans to operate the dairy processing plant near Chilton in central Calumet County. Foremost Farms ended operations in July 2020 and sold the facility to Tillamook. Grande Cheese Company then acquired the facility in May 2023 and is planning on processing 1.8 million lbs/day of milk and generating 70 million pounds of cheese per year. The discharge of 0.362 MGD is expected to the existing outfall to the unnamed tributary to the South Branch of the Manitowoc River.

At the upgraded treatment facility, there will be high strength and normal strength equalization tanks. The high strength waste (HSW) will flow to an enhanced biological phosphorus removal process before being routed to the aeration basin or if inappropriate to feed into the system the HSW can sent to be hauled offsite for disposal or landspread under Outfall 005.. The normal strength waste will flow to denitrification tank before flow to the aeration basin. Solids are separated by an ultrafiltration. A phosphorus-removal additive will be utilized and precipitated solids will be separated via an additional ultrafiltration membrane. The effluent will be cooled and oxygenated prior to discharge to the Outfall 001. The sludge separated during wastewater treatment will be sent to two sludge silos. The industrial sludge will either be landspread on department approved sites under Outfall 005 or sent to the spray irrigation system under Outfall 002.

The facility has an existing lagoon system that will be used for various purposes. The lagoon will receive partially treated off-specification permeate and serve as emergency storage for industrial sludge or treatment tank overflow events. The lagoon contents will either be pumped back to the wastewater treatment facility for further treatment or sent to the spray irrigation system under Outfall 002.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Ashley Clark, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI, 54313, (920) 857-0450, AshleyM.Clark@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Trevor Moen, 625 E County Road Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh, WI 54901, (920) 410-5192, Trevor.Moen@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above-specified WPDES permit should be issued for this new discharge.

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 (920) 857-0450 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: Tri-County News

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 237, Kiel, WI 53042-0237

Date Notice Issued: August 21, 2025