

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0063207-04-0

Permittee: Grande Cheese Company - Juda, N2607 CTH S, Juda, WI, 53550

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Grande Cheese Company - Juda, N2607 CTH S

Receiving Water And Location: North Fork of Juda Branch Creek in Lower Sugar River Watershed of Sugar - Pecatonica River Basin in Green County

Brief Facility Description: High strength waste streams from the cheese and whey plants are mixed during anaerobic treatment and are then routed to either the cheese or whey wastewater treatment process. The Cheese WWTP consists of an oxidation ditch, clarifier, and post aeration and the Whey WWTP consists of three aeration basins in parallel, clarifier, and sand filter. Once the combined wastewater from the cheese and whey WWTPs discharges to the drainage channel, it flows 200 feet before reaching the North Fork of the Juda Branch in the Lower Sugar River (SP 11) Watershed in the Sugar Pecatonica River Basin.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Amy Garbe, 141 NW Barstow St Room 180, Waukesha, WI, 53188, (608) 716-9968, Amy.Garbe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Kenzie Ostien, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 516-6487, kenzie.ostien@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.

Proposed Alternative Effluent Limit for Temperature: The Department has determined that water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) for temperature are needed in this permit to assure attainment and maintenance of thermal water quality standards. The weekly average WQBELs for this permittee are: Jan – 58°F, Feb – 59°F, Mar – 62°F, Apr – 61°F, May – 70°F, Jun – 82°F, July – 87°F, Aug – 88°F, Sept – 79°F, Oct – 68°F, Nov – 55°F, Dec – 57°F. As allowed under NR 106 Subchapter VI, Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee has requested an alternative effluent limit (AEL) for temperature. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted a demonstration that the WQBELs for temperature are more stringent than necessary to assure protection and propagation of shellfish, fish and wildlife in and on the body of water into which the discharge is made. The Department concurs with the demonstration based on the information submitted and proposes to establish weekly average AEL as follows: Jan – 75°F, Feb – 70°F, Mar – 75°F, Apr – 80°F, May – 82°F, Jun – 86°F, July & Aug – no limits, Sept – 88°F, Oct – 80°F, Nov – 77°F, Dec – 70°F. Effluent monitoring requirements are included at the frequency described in this permit. All data submitted by the permittee are available for public inspection at either the above-named permit drafter's office or the above-named basin engineer's office. Any interested person may comment upon the proposed AEL(s) for Temperature.

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 (262) 574-2135 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.