

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0024287-11-0

Permittee: City of Independence, P O Box 189, Independence, WI, 54747

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Independence Wastewater Treatment Plant, 23510 Cleveland St., Independence, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Trempealeau River in Middle Trempealeau River Watershed of Trempealeau River Basin in Trempealeau County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Independence Wastewater Treatment Plant treats domestic waste from the City of Independence and industrial influent from Pilgrim Chicken. The annual average design flow at the facility is 0.165 million gallons per day (MGD). The actual annual average effluent flow in 2024 was 0.088 MGD. Primary treatment consists of screening and grit removal. Effluent is further treated at the existing secondary package activated sludge plant with an aeration basin and secondary clarification. Ferric Chloride is added to the clarifier for phosphorus removal. Sludge is aerobically and anaerobically digested and thickened on a gravity belt thickener and stored onsite prior to landspreading on Department approved fields. Effluent is disinfected seasonally with chlorination (followed by dechlorination) prior to discharge to the Trempealeau River. No significant operational changes occurred during the last permit term. In the upcoming permit term the facility plans to upgrade the headworks, add a chemical feed system, upgrade the aeration systems, replace chlorine disinfection with ultraviolet light, add a new aeration basin and convert the digester to sludge storage. Significant effluent limitation and/or monitoring changes this permit term are as follows: 1) the sample frequency for flow at the influent at effluent has been changed from "continuous" to "daily" for eDMR reporting purposes, 2) fecal coliform monitoring & limit have been replaced with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits per the associated compliance schedule, 3) total nitrogen monitoring (TKN, NO₂+NO₃ and Total Nitrogen) added during specific quarters as outlined in the permit, 4) the department approved the Water Quality Trading Plan (WQT-2025-0015) submitted by the permittee as a way to demonstrate compliance with water quality based effluent limits (WQBELs) for total phosphorus, 5) zinc limits have been removed (monitoring remains), and 6) acute WET testing has increased from 2/permit term to 3/permit term. Additionally, to quantitate the risk, PFAS sludge sampling has been included in the permit pursuant to ss. NR214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code.

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: Jenna Monahan, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-4323, jenna.monahan@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.

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: Trempealeau County Times, 36435 Main Street, PO Box 95, Whitehall, WI, 54773-0095

Date Notice Issued: August 13, 2025