STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0054241-08-1

Permittee: KLONDIKE CHEESE CORP, W7839 HWY 81, MONROE, WI, 53566

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Klondike Cheese Corp, W7839 Hwy 81

Receiving Water And Location: Tributary to Skinner Creek, W 7839 Hwy 81, about 6 miles northwest of Monroe in Green County and groundwaters of the Jordon and Skinner Creek Watersheds in the Sugar Pecatonica River Basin.

Brief Facility Description: The Klondike Cheese plant (located on Hwy 81 about 6 miles northwest of Monroe) produces Feta, Brick, Havarti, Muenster and Gouda cheeses and Greek yogurt using approximately 1.26 Mlbs/day of raw milk, 0.046 Mlbs/day powdered milk /nonfat dried milk powder and 0.0038 Mlbs/day milk protein concentrate. Cheese making typically occurs five days per week. The sanitary wastewater from the factory bathrooms is discharged to an on-site holding tank and transported to the Monroe Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The cheese whey undergoes ultrafiltration to segregate whey protein from the lactose fraction. The lactose fraction is then concentrated from approximately 8 to 27% solids by reverse osmosis (RO) before shipment off-site. Part of the residual RO permeate is re-used in-plant and the remaining percentage is currently stored in the storage lagoons prior to spray irrigation on Klondikes' sprayfields. This permit modification will allow RO permeate that cannot be reused to be discharged to Outfall 002. The whey cream and the protein / lactose byproducts are sold and processed off-site for food ingredients.

Existing clear water streams, such as non-contact cooling water and well water RO retentate of up to 0.05 MGD, are currently discharged to surface water via Outfall 002 to the unnamed tributary to Skinner Creek. This permit modification will allow the permittee to discharge process RO permeate to the Outfall 002. The tributary passes beneath Hwy 81 and then east about ½ mile to Skinner Creek. The process WW is first discharged to the pretreatment / storage system and then spray irrigated on the spray field treatment system (Outfalls 003 & 006) or discharged to the ridge and furrow (Outfall 005) for final treatment. Another ~3-4 MG/year of high strength WW composed of residual milk, whey and lactose solid is landspread (Outfall 001) on WDNR approved sites.

Treatment system improvements in 2018 included increased solids removal, additional hydraulic treatment capacity and additional spray field acres (North Spray field -Outfall 006). Improvements also included modification of the existing WW conveyance and treatment system by further segregating WW sources and providing additional stages of biological treatment (i.e. new aeration basin). Solids removal was improved with the addition of two dissolved air flotation units (DAFs). A 16 MG lagoon added cold weather wastewater storage.

Prior to discharge to the spray irrigation system, suspended solids and fat are removed from segregated wash water streams with active and passive solids separation (i.e. solids separation tanks, equalization tanks and DAFs). Wastewater can then be aerobically and anaerobically pretreated prior to holding in aerobic storage Lagoon 3 (L3) and Lagoon 4 (L4). Following pretreatment and storage, Wastewater from Lagoon 0 (L0) is blended with that from either L3 or L4 and spray irrigated on the Plant Spray field, or North Spray field, or sent to the 5.5 acre ridge and furrow (R&F) treatment system. Flexible operation of the biological treatment system allows Klondike to direct WW from intermediate stages of treatment in order to optimize the land treatment systems (i.e Spray fields and R&F). Application to the spray fields occurs April through November. Application to the R&F occurs year-round.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, Mailing address: Lisa Creegan, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI, 53711 (920) 450-4078, Jennifer.Jerich@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Zachary Watson, 1500 N Johns Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533, (608) 910-2822, zachary.watson@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Permit Modification -1 is completed upon the request of the permittee due to increased production and a change to discharge RO permeate from whey processing with Outfall 002. The modification changes Outfall 002 to include monitoring and limitations required with the change of both production levels and inclusion of RO Permeate from whey processing to the surface water outfall.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above-specified WPDES permit should be modified.

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) 450-4078 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: Monroe Times

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Monroe Times 1065 4th Ave West Monroe, WI 53566

Date Notice Issued: **Enter Date Notice Issued**