

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0029581-11-0

Permittee: City of La Crosse, 905 Joseph Houska Dr. , La Crosse, WI, 54601

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: City of La Crosse, 905 Joseph Houska Dr.

Receiving Water And Location: Mississippi River in Lower La Crosse River Watershed of Bad Axe - La Crosse River Basin in La Crosse County

Brief Facility Description: The City of La Crosse owns and operates an activated sludge type wastewater treatment facility on Isle La Plume with discharge to the Mississippi River and underwent significant upgrades from 2023 to 2025. The annual average design flow of the facility is 20 million gallons per day (MGD). Treatment begins with 1/4" fine screening with a redundant unit as backup. There are then two independent grit removal systems consisting of two Pista Grit tanks and two Huber grit washers, the resulting grit is landfilled. There are 5 primary clarifiers. Two parallel activated sludge tank systems for biological nutrient removal have an emphasis on biological phosphorus removal. There are four final clarifiers and a seasonally operated UV disinfection system. Prior to discharge, all flow goes through disc filter units for tertiary treatment of phosphorus. Ferric chloride is used. The outfall is located on the east bank of the main channel of the Mississippi River approximately 50' from the treatment plant boundary and 0.625 miles downstream of the existing US Highway 14/16/61 main channel bridge. All sludge from the primary and final clarifiers is pumped into two parallel gravity sludge thickeners and then the thickened sludge is pumped into a gravity belt thickener or the Orege sludge thickening system prior to the four anaerobic digesters. After digestion, the sludge is dewatered with belt filter presses. If needed, the liquid sludge may be stored in two liquid sludge storage tanks and eventual land application through direct injection. Cake sludge is directed to the heat dryer to produce Class A (exceptional quality or EQ) biosolids. Cake sludge from the belt filter press(es), can be stored in cake storage if necessary where it is either land applied or hauled to a landfill. Class A (EQ) biosolids are stored in a silo prior to distribution.

Operational changes since the last permit term include: 1) Installation of a biosolids heat dryer to better manage biosolids produce and reduction, 2) increased mixing and heat in anaerobic digesters to enhance the digestion process and gain organic capacity, 3) enhanced Bio P system/aeration for better phosphorus and nitrogen removal, 4) increased methane production by adding HSW receiving area where the extra methane is burned in a CO Gen to produce their own electricity and for use in boilers to heat digesters and the facility's campus, and 5) new electrical loop and fiber for better reliability, including a new backup diesel power generator. Permit changes for the upcoming term include: 1) new PFOS effluent monitoring, 2) lower effluent phosphorus limits, 3) new effluent daily variable ammonia limits based on pH, 4) new requirements for the Class A sludge treatment system, 5) requirement for a determination of need of the effluent PFOS monitoring after 2 years of data, 6) PFAS sludge sampling has been included pursuant to ss. NR 214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code to quantitate risk, and 6) an updated sludge management plan.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Angela Parkhurst, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 839-3836, Angela.Parkhurst@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Katherine Jerzak, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 491-0207, katherine.jerzak@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) 839-3836 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.