

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0024465-12-0

Permittee: Village of La Farge, 105 W. Main Street, La Farge, WI, 54639

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: La Farge Wastewater Treatment Plant, S4459 State Hwy. 131, La Farge, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Kickapoo River in Middle Kickapoo River Watershed of the Lower Wisconsin River Basin in Vernon County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The La Farge Wastewater Treatment Facility treats domestic wastewater from the Village of La Farge. The annual average design flow of the facility is 0.172 million gallons per day (MGD) and had an actual annual average influent flow of 0.092 MGD in 2024. Primary treatment consists of a fine screen and auger for grit removal and an equalization tank (not typically in use). Effluent then goes through a secondary treatment process of activated sludge and a final clarifier. Currently effluent is disinfected seasonally via chlorination and dechlorination prior to discharge to the Kickapoo River. The facility anticipates installing an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system prior to the 2026 disinfection season to replace the chlorination system. The facility adds aluminum sulfate to the activated sludge basin to remove phosphorus. Aerobic sludge digestion occurs and liquid or cake sludge is land applied on Department approved sites or hauled to a landfill. The Department has approved water quality trading (WQT) as the method of complying with effluent phosphorus limits at Outfall 001. The Village of La Farge submitted a WQT Plan (WQT-2025-0010) that provides details of the trade. The plan provides calculations and a table that shows the amount of phosphorus credits that will be available each year. Even with phosphorus credits available, there is still a phosphorus monthly average concentration effluent limit of 1 mg/L that acts as the minimum control level and applies to outfall 001. Significant influent monitoring changes are as follows: 1) the sample frequency for flow has changed from “continuous” to “daily” for eDMR reporting purposes. Significant effluent monitoring and/or limit changes are as follows: 1) the sample frequency for flow has changed from “continuous” to “daily” for eDMR reporting purposes, 2) fecal coliform monitoring & limits have been replaced with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits, 3) annual total nitrogen monitoring (TKN, NO<sub>2</sub>+NO<sub>3</sub> and Total Nitrogen) added, and 4) because La Farge is replacing their chlorination disinfection system with ultraviolet light, clarification language has been added stating that chlorine monitoring and limits only apply if they use chlorine for disinfection. The following changes were made at the sludge/land application outfalls: 1) A requirement has been added that sludge be monitored annually for radium-226, 2) 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, 3) PCB monitoring was removed from the cake sludge Outfall 003, and 4) language was added at Outfall 003 clarifying that List 2 nutrient monitoring is only required if the cake sludge is land applied.

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: Katherine Jerzak, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, 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) 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.

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