

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0054470-08-0

Permittee: Lactalis USA Belmont Inc, 218 Park St , BELMONT, WI, 53510

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Lactalis USA Belmont Inc, 218 Park St, Belmont, WI 53510

Receiving Water And Location: Bonner Branch of the Sugar-Pecatonica River Basin (Middle Pecatonica Watershed, SP-08)

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Lactalis USA Inc – Belmont filters whole milk to separate the whey and standardize the milk protein. The milk is used to make specialty Brie and Feta cheeses. Milk fat that is removed through the ultra-filtration system can be blended back in to assure appropriate fat levels for various cheese recipes. Some of the whey resulting from the cheese production is concentrated from reverse osmosis (RO) membranes and is shipped to a different facility for further processing. Equipment is cleaned in place on a daily basis.

Lactalis operates an activated sludge wastewater treatment facility consisting of four high strength storage tanks, two RO storage silos, a vertical fine screen, aerated EQ tank, selector tank, aeration tank, final clarifier, four tertiary sand filters, reaeration tank, and chemical phosphorus removal. Treated effluent is discharged to the Bonner Branch via a storm sewer pipe (Outfall 002). Industrial sludge from the treatment process is thickened with a disk thickener and stored onsite before being land applied via Outfall 003. An upgrade was completed in 2021 with the addition of a new vertical fine screen, selector tank, aeration tank, and final clarifier; installation of the two additional tertiary sand filters was completed in 2022. Additional landspreading Outfalls 004 and 005 accommodate land application of high strength industrial liquid wastes consisting mainly of whey, whey process waste, and RO permeate from the whey concentration operation.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI, 53032, (920) 450-4078, Jennifer.Jerich@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Caitlin Oconnell, 1500 N Johns Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533, (608) 716-9964, Caitlin.Oconnell@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 (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 AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Platteville Journal, 25 E Main Street, PO Box 266, Platteville , WI, 53818-0266

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, May 22, 2024