

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0020273-10-0

Permittee: Marathon Water & Sewer Dept, P O Box 487, Marathon City, WI, 54448

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Marathon Water & Sewer Dpt WW Treatmnt Plant, 104 Chestnut Street

Receiving Water And Location: Big Rib River in Lower Rib River Watershed of Central Wisconsin River Basin in Marathon County

Brief Facility Description: The Marathon Water & Sewer Wastewater Treatment Facility treats domestic wastewater from the Village of Marathon City and various wastewaters from the following industries: Marathon Cheese Corporation (processes & packages cheese- discharges process wastewater), Custom Meats, Inc (a meat processing plant- discharges process wastewater), Marathon Cheese Transportation Equipment (discharges washwater), The design flow of the facility is 0.36 million gallons per day (MGD) and had an actual annual average effluent flow of 0.223 MGD in 2025. The new Aero-Mod treatment plant was fully operational September 2023. treatment plant is an activated sludge, secondary wastewater treatment facility. The plant consists of a Huber step screen, Pista grit collector/removal system with a Wemco Hygrogritter-grit classifier, influent pumping station, Aero-Mod secondary treatment (consisting of a bio-p fermenter tank, a bio-p selector tank, and 2 trains of each of the following; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd stage aeration, and final clarifiers), biological and chemical (alum) phosphorus removal, and UV disinfection prior to discharge to the Big Rib River. Biosolids are stabilized in two aerobic digesters. Solids are allowed to gravity settle and then are pumped to a digested sludge storage tank. The digested sludge is then mixed and aerated in the digested sludge storage tank for approximately one week, prior to thickening on an Ashbrook 0.8 M gravity belt thickener. Thickened digested sludge is then pumped to an above ground 280,000-gallon Biosolids Storage Tank, until land application each spring and fall.

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: Nicholas Lindstrom, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-1787, Nicholas.Lindstrom@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: Wausau Daily Herald, 800 Scott Street, Wausau, WI, 54402-1286

Date Notice Issued: February 16, 2026