

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0054500-08-1

Permittee: Metallica Inc, W7274 County Hwy Z, Onalaska, WI 54650

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Metallica Inc, W7274 County Hwy Z, Onalaska, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Halfway Creek, approximately 50 feet upstream of County Hwy Z and one-quarter mile upstream of Lake Onalaska

Brief Facility Description: Metallica, Inc. (Metallica) manufactures anodized, etched and screen printed nameplates and vinyl, polyester and polycarbonate decals. Manufacturing operations include etching, painting, anodizing, dying, cleaning and machining metal sheets. Screen printing on metal and plastic sheets is also performed. Metallica operates a wastewater treatment system on-site and segregates its wastewater prior to treatment. The system provides two, primarily batch-oriented, treatment trains. Both treatment trains use hydrated lime to elevate pH to the point at which dissolved metals precipitate as solid metal hydroxides. Subsequent sedimentation and filtration are implemented to meet applicable effluent limits. Low quantity, high-concentration acid baths from etching and anodizing are routed through the batch-acid treatment train. High quantity, low-concentration blends of water and acid waste are routed through the rinse-water treatment train. Waste constituents treated through the two trains include hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, sulfuric, acetic and phosphoric acids, ferric chloride, and nickel acetate. Effluent from both treatment trains is hauled to the La Crosse WWTF. Etching and anodizing rinse waters, and water softener recharge waste enter the treatment system at the neutralization tank, prior to the facility's clarifier. These wastewaters are then treated with primary and secondary polishing filters prior to being discharged with non-contact cooling water to Halfway Creek via Outfall 003. Dewatered solids from the treatment plant are hauled to a waste disposal facility out of state. Metallica's current discharge to Halfway Creek via Outfall 003 averages 9,000 gallons per day (gpd) of treated process wastewater and 31,000 gpd of noncontact cooling water.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 662-5148, Sarah.Donoughe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Katie Jo Jerzak, DNR, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 491-0207, katherine.jerzak@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: The permit modification is proposed to reduce the effluent PFOS/PFOA sampling frequency from monthly to quarterly, after a review of submitted data, pursuant to s. NR 205.066, Wis. Adm. Code. Also, PFOS/PFOA monitoring has been removed at Sample Points 102 and 103 and will now be reported under Sample Point 003 because an alternative sampling procedure for PFAS has been approved. TSS monitoring has been reduced to monthly at Sample Point 103. Sample Point 005 (and the entire land treatment section and associated standard requirements) have been removed as this discharge option is no longer in use.

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

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) 662-5148 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: La Crosse Tribune

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 401 Third Street N, La Crosse, WI 54601

Date Notice Issued: May 20, 2025