

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0037991-08-0

Permittee: NDP WQC LLC, 621 North Biron Drive, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, 54494

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: NDP WQC LLC, 2811 Fifth Avenue North

Receiving Water And Location: Wisconsin River in Wood County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Biron Mill and Sonoco discharge process wastewaters to the Water Quality Center (NDP WQC LLC) for treatment. Both production facilities discharge cooling waters directly to the Wisconsin River and each operates a wastewater lift station with an outfall for emergency overflows. Leachate and groundwater from the NDP WQC LLC Landfill, which is located adjacent to the Water Quality Center, are also treated at NDP WQC LLC. Leachate from the closed F&E Landfill is pumped to NDP WQC LLC for treatment. The facility provides pH neutralization, primary clarification, extended aeration activated sludge, secondary clarification and sludge dewatering. Components of NDP WQC LLC include three primary clarifiers, three lagoons (48 MG, 24 MG, and 12 MG) with surface aerators, two secondary clarifiers, two sludge thickeners and four belt presses. The smallest aerated lagoon (No. 2) is used to store spills that occur in the mills. Dewatered sludge is either landfilled in the adjacent, company-owned landfill or landspread.

Sampling points associated with the idled Wisconsin Rapids Mill and the Wisconsin Rapids Fiber & Energy Center were removed. A BTA determination was made for intake structures with a corresponding compliance schedule, and additional intake monitoring added. New thermal and ammonia limits were added for effluent outfalls and associated compliance schedules added. Total Residual Chlorine monitoring and limits were removed from certain outfalls where chlorine is no longer used. The main WQC effluent outfall removed sampling for AOX and Dioxin/Furan parameters. TMDL limits were added for phosphorus and PFOS/PFOA monitoring added at appropriate outfalls. Additional metals monitoring added where appropriate.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Nate Willis, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921, (608) 535-2369, Nathaniel.Willis@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Logan Rubeck, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 450-5967, logan.rubeck@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.

Cooling Water Intake Structure: The proposed permit contains a determination regarding use of the best technologies available for minimizing impingement mortality and entrainment at the permittee's cooling water intake structure, subject to ch. NR 111, Wis. Adm. Code, and section 316(b) of the federal Clean Water Act.

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 (608) 893-5566 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: Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 101 W Riverview Expy Suite 131, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-3367

Date Notice Issued: June 18, 2025