

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0020893-10-0

Permittee: City of New Holstein, New Holstein Utilities, 2110 Washington St, New Holstein, WI 53061

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: New Holstein Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1315 Taft St, New Holstein, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Jordan Creek (WBIC 80200) in the South Branch Manitowoc River Watershed (MA05) of the Manitowoc River Basin, in Calumet County

Brief Facility Description: Raw sewage and trucked-in waste enter the plant at the headworks building, where the wastewater passes through a rotating fine screen and degritter. After leaving the headworks, the influent flows to a lift station and is pumped up to the aeration basins, equipped with a fine-pore submerged diffused aeration system. The treated water flows to the final clarifier, then out to Jordan Creek. Poly-aluminum chloride is added just before entering the final clarifier. The biosolids are sent to an aerobic digester, then to secondary digesters for further treatment and gravity thickening. The thickened biosolids are pumped to storage lagoons until being hauled as liquid to farmers' fields. The plant was built in 1973, replacing a 1953 plant. Processes are updated when feasible. Surface aeration was replaced with fine bubbles in 1989. The lift station was updated in 1997 with new pumps and motors, and the addition of VFD drives. The headworks building was built in 2000, replacing a comminutor with a fine screen and installing a new degritter. Extensive remodeling and the installation of a SCADA system were also included in the project. A new blower and sludge transfer pump building were built in 2015. Also new sludge transfer pumps were installed in 2015.

Summary of Proposed Changes: 1) Addition of continuous flow monitoring per the Install Continuous Flow Recording Device Schedule. 2) Addition of TMDL-based mass limits for TSS and total phosphorus. 3) Addition of Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits, to become effective per the Effluent Limitations for E. coli Schedule. 4) Increased ammonia nitrogen monitoring frequency and addition of effluent limits. 5) Decreased chloride variance interim limit from 480 mg/L to 420 mg/L and updated source reduction measures. 6) Addition of annual total nitrogen monitoring (TKN, NO₂+NO₃ and Total N) in rotating quarters throughout the permit term. 7) Addition of Acute Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing and a Chronic WET effluent limit. 8) Addition of temperature monitoring during the fourth year (2028) of the permit. 9) Addition of PFOS/PFOA monitoring at a frequency of every other month in accordance with s. NR 106.98(2)(a), Wis. Adm. Code. 10) Addition of Sample Point (Outfall) 003 for the land application of Lagoon Sludge from the sludge storage lagoons on to Department approved sites. Monitoring requirements are the same as those for Outfall 002. 11) Removal of PCB monitoring. 12) Addition of annual PFAS (PFOA + PFOS) monitoring pursuant to s. NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code. 13) Updated or additional compliance schedules for: chloride source reduction measure (target value); disinfection and effluent limitations for E. coli; install continuous flow recording device; PFOS/PFOA minimization plan determination of need; and sludge management plan. 14) Updated standard language.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6076, Sarah.Donoughe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Trevor Moen, DNR, 625 E County Rd Y, Ste 700, Oshkosh, WI 54901, (920) 410-5192, Trevor.Moen@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.

Proposed Chloride Variance: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for chloride is needed in this permit to protect aquatic life. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee has requested a variance to the chloride WQBEL. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted documentation intended to demonstrate that the cost of complying with the WQBEL through the use of end-of-pipe wastewater treatment may cause substantial and widespread adverse social and economic impacts in the area where the discharger is located. The Department concurs with that assessment; however, this concurrence is subject to USEPA approval before the variance limit may be included in the final reissued permit. In an effort to achieve chloride effluent reductions that are practically and economically achievable within the term of the proposed permit, the Department and the permittee have mutually agreed upon specific permit terms that include an interim limitation, a target limit (or value, as the case may be), and certain source reduction activities. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(3), Wis. Adm. Code, these requirements are contained in the proposed permit.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: **Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 1:00pm,**
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdOmqpzgjG9byfPFqD8MwMvrFWLHSA_AX

Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6076

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to s. 283.49, Wis. Stats, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to ensure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above-named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. 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.

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: Tri-County News

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 237, Kiel, WI 53042-0237

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, September 12, 2024