

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0002887-09-0

Permittee: Northern States Power, Wisconsin, d/b/a Xcel, 1414 West Hamilton Avenue , Eau Claire, WI, 54702-0008

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Northern States Power, Wisconsin, d/b/a Xcel, 122 North 14TH Avenue West, Ashland, WI 54806

Receiving Water And Location: Chequamegon Bay of Lake Superior

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Northern States Power Company – Bay Front Plant (NSPC – Bay Front Plant) is a 44-megawatt steam electric generating plant that burns wood chips, railroad ties, tire-derived fuel, and natural gas. The plant uses three boilers and three turbine generators connected by a common header system. Any one boiler or combination of boilers can provide steam to any one or all turbine generators. The facility uses intake water from Lake Superior to cool the turbine steam.

There were three main outfalls (001, 002, and 003) during the past reissuance that discharged condenser cooling water, noncontact cooling water and process water. As of January 2015, coal is no longer burned in Boiler #5. In addition to the process water that was once discharged via 003, the discharge from Outfall 001 is comprised of turbine condenser cooling water, or once through cooling water (it goes through the condenser system only once and does not contain water conditioning additives), various other cooling waters, boiler drawdown, and blow off water. Other condenser cooling waters are discharged through Outfall 002 near Outfall 001. Outfall 004 was for bypass discharges during emergencies and scheduled maintenance for Outfall 003. With the rerouting of the waste, Outfall 004 is now associated with bypass discharges of the collection tank. All discharges are to Chequamegon Bay in Lake Superior.

Other outfalls (007 and 013) discharge only noncontact cooling water with no additives at various locations. Outfall 015 is a calculated sampling point for the combined discharge mass limits from the collection tank (Outfall 103 and 004). Outfall 016 monitors the flow rate of the existing lake water directed to clean debris from the traveling screen across the mouth of the inlet slip. Outfalls 017 and 018 monitor the flow rate of the existing warm condenser water diverted prior to discharge from Outfalls 001 and 002 respectively used to de-ice the intake screens in the winter.

Proposed changes include:

- Removal of average and minimum temperature monitoring at sample points 702, 703, 001, and 002
- Monthly average TSS and oil & grease limits added at sample point 101
- pH monitoring switched from weekly grab samples to daily continuous samples at sample points 001 and 002
- Monthly chlorine monitoring added at sample points 001, 002, 007, and 013
- Daily max mercury limit added at sample point 001
- Monthly PFOS and PFOA monitoring added at sample point 001
- Daily max limits for two additives added at sample point 001
- Annual chronic and acute WET testing added at sample point 001
- TSS and oil & grease limits decreased at sample point 015
- Impingement mortality BTA, PFOS/PFOA Minimization Plan Determination of Need, and Continuous pH Monitoring schedules added

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sawyer Hanson, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707, (608) 669-4310, Sawyer.Hanson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric Devenecia, 1701 N 4TH ST, Superior, WI 54880, (715) 685-4155, Eric.DeVenecia@wisconsin.gov

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

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) 669-4310 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: Daily Press

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 122 3rd St W, PO Box 313, Ashland, WI 54806

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, February 20, 2025