

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-0021181-10-0

Permittee: Oconomowoc Wastewater Treatment Plant, 900 S Worthington St, Oconomowoc, WI, 53066

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Oconomowoc Wastewater Treatment Plant, 900 S Worthington St, Oconomowoc, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Oconomowoc River in the Oconomowoc River Watershed of the Upper Rock River Basin in Waukesha County

Brief Facility Description: The City of Oconomowoc operates a 4.02 million gallon per day (MGD) annual average design flow conventional activated sludge wastewater treatment plant designed to treat an organic loading of 8,340 lbs/day. The plant was placed online in 1977 and currently serves a population of approximately 25,900. Treatment processes include screening, grit removal, primary clarification, activated sludge aeration, secondary clarification, tertiary filtration and UV light disinfection. Ferric chloride is applied at the end of the aeration basins for phosphorus removal. Effluent receives additional aeration (fine bubble diffusers) in the final effluent tanks before flowing into a trapezoidal concrete channel that terminates at the east bank of the Oconomowoc River approximately 800 feet west of the plant. Waste activated sludge is thickened using a gravity belt; the thickened WAS and primary clarifier sludge are anaerobically digested. Biosolids are stored on-site and land applied from spring through fall onto agricultural sites approved by the Department. The plant provides wastewater treatment services for the City of Oconomowoc, Mary Lane S.D., Ixonia S.D. No. 2, Village of Lac La Belle, Lac La Belle S.D., Blackhawk S.D., the Village of Summit and the Village of Oconomowoc Lake. Domestic holding tank and septic tank wastes are also accepted by the facility.

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: Nicholas Lent, DNR, 1027 W St Paul Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233, (414) 897-5723, Nicholas.Lent@wisconsin.gov

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

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: **Monday, December 1, 2025, at 2:00pm,**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/nvdLj9UVSSW0gSfXvmsgeg>

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) 366-6076 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: Oconomowoc Enterprise

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 7, Waukesha, WI 53066-0007

Date Notice Issued: October 16, 2025