

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0021547-10-0

Permittee: POTOSI-TENNYSON SEWAGE COMMISSION, P O Box 45, Potosi, WI, 53820

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Potosi-Tennyson Sewage Commission WWTF, 100 PLANT STREET, POTOSI, WISCONSIN

Receiving Water And Location: Wetland of the Mississippi River (Platte River Watershed, GP02 – Grant-Platte River Basin) in Grant County. SW ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 9, T2N, R3W.

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Potosi-Tennyson operates an extended aeration activated sludge Orbal-style oxidation ditch WWTF that includes a grit channel, mechanical screen, two-channel oxidation ditch, final clarifier (with a second backup final clarifier), and UV disinfection. The WWTF treats a combination of industrial, commercial, and domestic wastewater. Solids treatment includes an aerobic digester, aerated storage tank, and overhead loadout prior to land application on DNR approved sites.

The facility has historically received limits based on a limited aquatic life (LAL) classification at the outfall to a wetland. Based on a site visit documented in the memo dated March 02, 2023, it was determined that a fish and aquatic life use of Warmwater Sport Fish (WWSF) Community should apply to the area where the outfall is located, and connectivity with the Mississippi main channel is present. This results in changes to limits reflected in this permit: Dissolved Oxygen and Ammonia.

Several violations of effluent limits, missed samples, late reporting, and repeated overflows occurred during the permit term. However, the permittee has taken the necessary steps to correct their actions and nothing further is required.

The permittee has been found to be in substantial compliance with their WPDES permit. The permittee has met all of the previously required actions as part of the enforcement process. After a desk top review of all discharge monitoring reports, CMARs, land application reports, compliance schedule items, and a site visit on September 27, 2023, the permittee has been found to be in substantial compliance with their current permit.

Monitoring influent flow rate has been included in the permit. The daily minimum limit for dissolved oxygen has been updated with a schedule for compliance. Ammonia limits for the months of November – April are included. Fecal coliform monitoring and limits have been replaced with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits. The permittee has applied for a multi-discharger variance (MDV) for phosphorus for this permit term and the application has been approved by the Department. An MDV interim limit of 1.0 mg/L has been added that goes into effect per a compliance schedule. The permittee is now required to report the total amount of phosphorus discharged in lbs/month and lbs/year. By May 1 of each year the permittee shall submit an Annual Watershed Report. Temperature monitoring is included. Monitoring PFOS & PFOA once every two months is included. Annual Total Nitrogen monitoring is required in specific quarters. Acute and Chronic WET tests are included. Sample frequencies for the following parameters have changed: BOD, TSS, pH, DO, Ammonia, and Phosphorus.

The permit includes monitoring sludge for the following parameters: Radium 226 & PFAS.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: BetsyJo Howe, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI, 53711, (608) 419-4155, Betsyjo.Howe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Caitlin Oconnell, 1500 N Johns Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533, (608) 716-9964, Caitlin.Oconnell@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.

Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance: The Department has determined that the permittee is eligible for a phosphorus multi-discharger variance (MDV) in accordance with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. The MDV provides a time extension for the permittee to comply with the final water quality based effluent limits for phosphorus while implementing a specific watershed project to reduce phosphorus. Comments on this determination are requested and additional supporting documentation and data are available upon request.

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) 419-4155 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: Grant County Herald Independent

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 208 W Cherry Street, PO Box 310, Lancaster, WI, 53813-0310

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, May 8, 2025