

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0050521-10-4

Permittee: Sargento Cheese Inc. - St. Cloud Plant, N5279 County Road G, St. Cloud, WI, 53079

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Sargento Cheese Inc. - St. Cloud Plant, N5279 County Road G, St. Cloud, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Mullett River and groundwater of the Sheboygan River Watershed (SH03) in Mullett River of Sheboygan River in Fond du Lac county

Brief Facility Description : This facility produces mozzarella cheese. The on-site treatment plant discharges treated process wastewater to a wetland tributary via surface water outfall 003. Whey processing wastewater shall also contribute additional wastewater that must be treated prior to discharge to the wetland tributary. Discharge flows are approximately 0.22 million gallons per day.

Currently whey processing wastewater is hauled off-site for further processing. Land application outfalls 001 and 004 are retained from the current permit to allow land application of industrial process wastewater and wastewater biosolids resulting from the wastewater treatment process. Wastewater is treated in an activated sludge process with enhanced biological phosphorus removal, consisting of an influent wetwell/lift station, selector tank, aeration basin, and membrane system for liquid/solids separation. High strength chloride wastewater is captured and diverted to a tank, and ultimately hauled to another wastewater treatment facility.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Ashley Clark, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI, 54313, (920) 857-0450, Ashley.Clark@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Mark Stanek, 625 E County Road Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh, WI 54901, (920) 808-0670, Mark.Stanek@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Permit modification -4 was completed following Sargento Cheese's (formally Baker Cheese) antidegradation and antibacksliding request per ch. NR 207, Wis. Adm. Code for total maximum daily load (TMDL) phosphorus mass limits, less stringent chloride concentration limits, and a lower IWC for chronic WET testing which warranted the addition of a chronic WET limit. The permit modification removed the WQT requirements from the permit as the permittee is able to meet the TMDL limits immediately without utilizing WQT for compliance.

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

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 (920) 857-0450 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: The Reporter

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 1955, Fond du Lac, WI 54937-1955

Date Notice Issued: Friday, December 27, 2024