

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0065480-02-0

Permittee: Schmitz Family Farm Enterprises, N5517 State Road 40, Bruce, WI, 54819

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Schmitz Family Farm Enterprises, N5517 State Road 40 Bruce

Receiving Water And Location: Surface water and groundwater within the Alder Creek and Chippewa River Watersheds

Brief Facility Description :Schmitz Family Farm Enterprises is a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) dairy farm located in the Township of Atlanta, Rusk County. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources first issued the farm their first CAFO permit in 2021.

The farm consists of one production site: the Home Farm located at N5517 State Road 40 Bruce, WI 54819. The farm is owned and operated by Chris Schmitz and has a current herd size of roughly 1318 cows, 677 heifers, and 328 calves (~2484.5 animal units). No expansion is planned during the permit term.

Approximately 19.5 million gallons of liquid manure/process wastewater and 910 tons of solid manure are projected to be produced in the first year of the permit term. Manure and process wastewater is stored in three manure storage structures. The total usable storage capacity is approximately 12 million gallons or 221 days of liquid waste storage. Schmitz Family Farm Enterprises owns or rents 2,903.5 acres of cropland, of which 2,805.8 acres are available for manure applications.

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

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jeffrey Jackson, DNR, 890 Spruce St, Baldwin, WI, 54002, (715) 210-1415, Jeffrey.Jackson@wisconsin.gov

People wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, the terms of the nutrient management plan, or the application, or to request a public informational hearing may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the 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 re-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 re-issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if within 30 days of the public date of this notice, a request for a hearing is filed by any person. The Department shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from USEPA or from 5 or more persons or if the Department determines there is significant public interest. 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 and fact sheet (if required), the operation's nutrient management plan and application may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 210-1415 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 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.