

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0052124-10-0

Permittee: Seaquist Orchards LLC, 2023 Highview Rd, Ellison Bay, WI, 54210-9726

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Seaquist Orchards LLC Processing Plant, 4399 County Rd E, Egg Harbor, WI 54209

Receiving Water And Location: Groundwaters of the Upper Door County Watershed (TK06) within the Door Peninsula Drainage Basin via spray irrigation and landspreading in Door County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The facility is a processing plant for tart red cherries. The processing plant is a seasonal operation and typically operates from one to four weeks between mid-July and mid-August. When the facility is operating, it operates 22 hours per day, 6 days per week. Production varies from about one to three million pounds annually. Fresh harvested cherries are initially cooled and rinsed in the orchards and quickly transported to the processing plant in water-filled containers. Once at the plant, the cherries undergo additional cooling by pumping well water through the shipping containers. The cooling water accounts for most of the wastewater discharge volume. After cooling, the cherries are de-stemmed, pitted, sorted, cold-packed, and shipped to an off-site freezer. Water is used to transport the cherries or pits within some of the in-plant processing stages and contributes to the wastewater discharge. The combined cooling and process wastewater is spray irrigated onto fields adjacent to the processing plant. The facility also generates wastewater during the cherry washing/rinsing process which may be landspread on Department approved sites. Sanitary wastewater is plumbed separately, discharging to an on-site septic system, and therefore is not regulated under this permit.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Adkins, DNR, 625 E Cty Rd Y Suite 700, Oshkosh, WI, 54901, (920) 360-3309, Sarah.Adkins@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Teresa Hall, 3369 W Brewster Street, Appleton, WI 54914, (920) 841-6425, teresa.hall@wisconsin.gov

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

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) 360-3309 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 & ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Door County Advocate, PO Box 130, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235-0130

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, August 21, 2024