

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0000345-11-0

Permittee: Seneca Foods Corporation Gillett, 200 N Green Bay Ave, Gillett, WI, 54124

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Seneca Foods Corporation Gillett, 200 N Green Bay Ave, Gillett

Receiving Water And Location: Christie Brook and the groundwater of the Lower Oconto River Watershed (GB03), Upper Green Bay Basin, in Oconto County. North bank of Christie Brook, between Washington Street and Green Bay Avenue

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: This facility processes and cans approximately 42,000 tons of green beans each season. The canning season can begin as early as June and continue as late as October, each year. This activity results in production of approximately 5 million cases of green beans per season. Processing occurs 6 or 7 days per week and generates wastewater 24 hours per day during production. The facility's water supply is from the City of Gillett municipal water system which uses phosphorus-based water treatment additives. Process wastewater is generated by washing, blanching and clean-up operations as well as the cooling of cans after heat processing. The process wastewater is either discharged to a 30-acre spray irrigation field or landspread on approximately 400 acres of DNR approved sites with a high-pressure spray gun mounted on a truck.

Contact can cooling water is discharged to Christie Brook and averages 0.2 million gallons per day during production. The water is cooled through a series of cooling towers and mechanical chillers. The water discharges from the towers into a tank with a dehalogenation additive. Finally, the can cooling water is discharged from the tank through a pipe protruding from the bank approximately 6 feet above the stream bed. The can cooling water results from cooling canned product with city water which contains phosphorus-based additives. A biocide additive is also added to the cooling water line which is then dehalogenated with another additive prior to discharge to surface water. Non-phosphorus based anti-corrosion and anti-deposition additives are also added to the cooling water. Waste green bean by-product solids are picked up by farmers to use as animal feed or landspread on DNR approved sites.

Sanitary wastewater, boiler blowdown and water softener regeneration water are discharge to the City of Gillett Wastewater Treatment Facility. At the end of each season, the pumping station for the spray irrigation field is cleaned out and residuals are landspread on the spray field. Five monitoring wells continue to monitor groundwater quality.

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

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: David Haas, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 662-5401, David.Haas@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.

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: Green Bay Press Gazette

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 23430, Green Bay, WI 54305-3430

Date Notice Issued: July 11, 2025