

WPDES PERMIT

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES permit to discharge under the wisconsin pollutant discharge elimination system

SONOCO PRODUCTS CO - WISCONSIN RAPIDS

is permitted, under the authority of Chapter 283, Wisconsin Statutes, to discharge from a facility located at 310 3rd Ave N Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495

to

The Wisconsin River

in accordance with the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in this permit.

The permittee shall not discharge after the date of expiration. If the permittee wishes to continue to discharge after this expiration date an application shall be filed for reissuance of this permit, according to Chapter NR 200, Wis. Adm. Code, at least 180 days prior to the expiration date given below.

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources For the Secretary

By

Amy Garbe, P.E. Acting Wastewater Section Manager

Date Permit Signed/Issued

PERMIT TERM: EFFECTIVE DATE – July 01, 2025

EXPIRATION DATE - July 30, 2030

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INFLUENT REQUIREMENTS - COOLING WATER INTAKE STRUCTURE (CWIS)	1
 1.1 SAMPLING POINT(S) 1.2 MONITORING REQUIREMENTS AND BTA DETERMINATIONS 1.2.1 Sampling Point 711 - WRM NORTH INTAKE and 712- WRM SOUTH INTAKE 1.3 COOLING WATER INTAKE STRUCTURE STANDARD REQUIREMENTS 1.3.1 Future BTA for Cooling Water Intake Structure 1.3.2 Visual or Remote Inspections 1.3.3 Reporting Requirements for Cooling Water Intake 1.3.4 Intake Screen Discharges and Removed Substances 1.5 Endemony of Structure Act. 	1 1 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3
1.3.5 Endangered Species Act 2 SURFACE WATER REQUIREMENTS	4
 2.1 SAMPLING POINT(S) 2.2 MONITORING REQUIREMENTS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS 2.2.1 Sampling Point (Outfall) 015 - BM 12 VPSW + NCCW 3 SCHEDULES 	4 4 4 6
3.1 Cooling Water Intake Structures - General 3.2 Cooling Water Intake Structures - Upgrades (Intakes 711 and 712) 3.3 Permit Application Submittal	6 6 6
4 STANDARD REQUIREMENTS	7
 4.1 REPORTING AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS 4.1.1 Monitoring Results 4.1.2 Sampling and Testing Procedures 4.1.3 Recording of Results 4.1.4 Reporting of Monitoring Results 4.1.5 Records Retention 4.1.6 Other Information 4.1.7 Reporting Requirements – Alterations or Additions 4.2 SYSTEM OPERATING REQUIREMENTS 4.2.1 Noncompliance Reporting 4.2.2 Bypass 4.2.3 Scheduled Bypass 4.2.5 Proper Operation and Maintenance 4.2.6 Operator Certification 4.2.7 Spill Reporting 4.2.8 Planned Changes 4.2.9 Duty to Halt or Reduce Activity 	7 7 7 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 9 9 9 9

1 Influent Requirements - Cooling Water Intake Structure (CWIS)

1.1 Sampling Point(s)

	Sampling Point Designation			
Sampling	Sampling Point Location, WasteType/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as applicable)			
Point				
Number				
711	Sampling Point 711 represents the Wisconsin Rapids Paper Mill North Intake.			
712	Sampling Point 712 represents the Wisconsin Rapids Paper Mill South Intake.			

1.2 Monitoring Requirements and BTA Determinations

The permittee shall comply with the following monitoring requirements.

The intake(s) has been reviewed for compliance with BTA (Best Technology Available) standards and the BTA determination(s) is listed below.

1.2.1 Sampling Point 711 - WRM NORTH INTAKE and 712- WRM SOUTH INTAKE

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations					
Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and	Sample	Sample	Notes
		Units	Frequency	Туре	
Flow Rate		MGD	Daily	Continuous	
Intake Water Used		% Flow	Annual	Calculated	
Exclusively For					
Cooling					

1.2.1.1 CWIS - Authority to Operate and Description

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all water intake facilities. The permittee shall give advance notice to the Department of any planned changes in the location, design, operation, or capacity of the intake structure. The permittee is authorized to use the North and South intakes which consists of the following:

- Location:
 - o 711: 44.3958°N, 89.8247°W
 - o 712: 44.3956°N, 89.8247°W
- General Description:
 - 711: The North Intake is located approximately 197 feet upstream of the Wisconsin Rapids Dam. The intake is a 24-inch diameter pipe opening through the wall of the dam. The intake pipe is 4.67 feet below water surface and approximately 16 feet off the bottom of river. This intake was installed prior to 1960 and new filter screens and pumps were installed in 1991. The intake pipe joins a common header with the south intake and feeds a common header tank. Water flows into the rotary filters and into the clear water sump by gravity and is withdrawn by the pumps, therefore DIF was calculated to be the combined capacity of the three pumps.
 - 712: The South Intake structure consists of a 20-inch pipe located 167 feet upstream of the Wisconsin Rapids Dam on the west bank of the river. The intake pipe is 16.5 feet below water surface and

approximately 4 feet off the bottom of river. There are no screens or bar racks on this intake as it is simply an open pipe. It joins a common header with the North intake.

- Major Components: Intake 711 is fitted with a rectangular box with a bar screen on the river side that measures 2.83 feet by 7.8 feet. The bar rack consists of 3/8-inch bars, 1 ½ inches on center. The intake pipe joins a common header with the south intake and feeds a common header tank. 712 has no major components. Water flows from each intake structure by gravity through three parallel rotary screens into the pump sump. Each rotary screen measures 5 feet by 10 feet of 60 mesh metal wire. Bypass water including aquatic organisms and debris that do not pass through the rotary screen mesh are returned to the river.
- Maximum Design Intake Flow (DIF): 21.6 MGD
- Maximum Through-Screen Design Intake Velocity:
 - o 711: 2.02 ft/s
 - o 712: 15.19 ft/s

1.2.1.2 Cooling Water Intake BTA (Best Technology Available) Determination

The Department believes that the cooling water intake structures, as described above in subsection 1.2.1.1, do represent BTA for minimizing entrainment mortality, but do not represent BTA for minimizing impingement mortality in accordance with the requirements in section s. 283.31(6), Wis. Stats., ch. NR 111, Wis. Adm. Code, and section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act.

1.3 Cooling Water Intake Structure Standard Requirements

The following requirements and provisions apply to all water intake structures identified as sampling points in subsection 1.1.

1.3.1 Future BTA for Cooling Water Intake Structure

BTA determinations for entrainment and impingement mortality at cooling water intake structures will be made in each permit reissuance, in accordance with ch. NR 111, Wis. Adm. Code. In subsequent permit reissuance applications, the permittee shall provide all the information required in ss. NR 111.41(1) through (7) and (13), Wis. Adm. Code., if the facility meets the applicability criteria in s. NR 111.02, Wis. Adm. Code.

S. NR 111.41(13) requires submittal of an alternatives analysis report for compliance with the entrainment BTA requirements with the permit application. This alternatives analysis for entrainment BTA shall examine the options for compliance with the entrainment BTA requirement and propose a candidate entrainment BTA to the Department for consideration during its next BTA determination. The analysis must, at least narratively, address and consider the factors listed in s. NR 111.41(13)(a), Wis. Adm. Code and may consider the factors listed in s. NR 111.41(13)(b), Wis. Adm. Code. The analysis must evaluate, at a minimum, closed-cycle recirculating systems, fine mesh screens with a mesh size of 2mm or smaller, variable speed pumps, water reuse or alternate sources of cooling water, and any additional technology identified by the department at a later date.

Exemptions from some permit application requirements are possible in accordance with s. NR 111.42(1), Wis. Adm. Code, where information already submitted is sufficient. If an exemption is desired, a request for reduced application material requirements must be submitted at least 2 years and 6 months prior to permit expiration. Past submittals and previously conducted studies may satisfy some or all of the application material requirements.

1.3.2 Visual or Remote Inspections

The permittee shall conduct a weekly visual inspection or employ a remote monitoring device during periods when the cooling water intakes are in operation. The inspection frequency shall be weekly to ensure the intakes are maintained and operated to function as designed.

1.3.3 Reporting Requirements for Cooling Water Intake

The permittee shall adhere to the reporting requirements listed below:

1.3.3.1 Annual Certification Statement and Report

Submit an annual certification statement signed by the authorized representative with information on the following, no later than January 31st for the previous year:

- Certification that water intake structure technologies are being maintained and operated as set forth in this permit, or a justification to allow a modification of the practices. Include a summary of the required Visual or Remote Inspections.
- If there are substantial modifications to the operation of any unit that impacts the cooling water withdrawals or operation of the water intake structure, provide a summary of those changes.
- If the information contained in the previous year's annual certification is still applicable, the certification may simply state as such.
- Compliance monitoring results for impingement mortality and entrainment characterization.

1.3.4 Intake Screen Discharges and Removed Substances

Floating debris and accumulated trash collected on the cooling water intake trash rack shall be removed and disposed of in a manner to prevent any pollutant from the material from entering the waters of the State pursuant to s. NR 205.07 (3) (a), Wis. Adm. Code, except that backwashes may contain fine materials that originated from the intake water source such as sand, silt, small vegetation or aquatic life.

1.3.5 Endangered Species Act

Nothing in this permit authorizes take for the purpose of a facility's compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Refer to 40 CFR §125.98 (b) (1) and (2).

2 Surface Water Requirements

2.1 Sampling Point(s)

The discharge(s) shall be limited to the waste type(s) designated for the listed sampling point(s).

	Sampling Point Designation
Sampling	Sampling Point Location, Waste Type/Sample Contents and Treatment Description (as
Point	applicable)
Number	
015	Sampling Point 015, cooling waters (from BM 12), noncontact cooling waters (condensing steam turbine and other sources) and storm water, if present, shall be monitored after mixing, but prior to discharge to the Wisconsin River via Outfall 015.

2.2 Monitoring Requirements and Effluent Limitations

The permittee shall comply with the following monitoring requirements and limitations.

Monitoring Requirements and Effluent Limitations					
Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and Units	Sample Frequency	Sample Type	Notes
Flow Rate		MGD	Daily	Continuous	
Temperature Maximum	Daily Max	120 deg F	Daily	Continuous	
Chlorine, Total Residual	Daily Max	38 µg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Chlorine, Total Residual	Monthly Avg	38 µg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Copper, Total Recoverable	Daily Max	18 µg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Copper, Total Recoverable	Monthly Avg	18 µg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Copper, Total Recoverable	Daily Max	0.87 lbs/day	Monthly	Calculated	
Hardness, Total as CaCO ₃		mg/L	Monthly	Grab	
Acute WET		TU _a	See Listed Qtr(s)	Flow Prop Comp	

2.2.1 Sampling Point (Outfall) 015 - BM 12 VPSW + NCCW

2.2.1.1 Copper and Hardness Monitoring

The permittee shall take hardness and copper samples on the same day of the month.

2.2.1.2 Effluent Temperature Monitoring

For monitoring temperature continuously, collect measurements in accordance with s. NR 218.04(13). This means that discrete measurements shall be recorded at intervals of not more than 15 minutes during the 24-hour period. Report the maximum temperature measured during the day on the DMR.

2.2.1.3 Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing

Primary Control Water: Wisconsin River

Dilution series: At least five effluent concentrations and dual controls must be included in each test.

• Acute: 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25% and any additional selected by the permittee.

WET Testing Frequency:

Acute tests are required during the following quarters:

• Acute: October – December 2027, January – March 2028, and April – June 2029

Acute WET testing shall continue after the permit expiration date (until the permit is reissued) in accordance with the WET requirements specified for the last full calendar year of this permit. For example, the next test would be required in April – June 2023.

Testing: WET testing shall be performed during normal operating conditions. Permittees are not allowed to turn off or otherwise modify treatment systems, production processes, or change other operating or treatment conditions during WET tests.

Reporting: The permittee shall report test results on the Discharge Monitoring Report form, and also complete the "Whole Effluent Toxicity Test Report Form" (Section 6, "*State of Wisconsin Aquatic Life Toxicity Testing Methods Manual, 2nd Edition*"), for each test. The original, complete, signed version of the Whole Effluent Toxicity Test Report Form shall be sent to the Biomonitoring Coordinator, Bureau of Water Quality, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, within 45 days of test completion. The Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form shall be submitted electronically by the required deadline.

Determination of Positive Results: An acute toxicity test shall be considered positive if the Toxic Unit - Acute (TU_a) is greater than 1.0 for either species (fathead minnow (Pimephales promelas) and waterflea (Ceriodaphnia dubia)). The TU_a shall be calculated as follows: $TU_a = 100 \div LC_{50}$.

Additional Testing Requirements: Within 90 days of a test which showed positive results, the permittee shall submit the results of at least 2 retests to the Biomonitoring Coordinator on "Whole Effluent Toxicity Test Report Forms". The 90-day reporting period shall begin the day after the test which showed a positive result. The retests shall be completed using the same species and test methods specified for the original test (see the Standard Requirements section herein).

3 Schedules

3.1 Cooling Water Intake Structures - General

Required Action	Due Date
Annual Certification Statement: The permittee shall submit an Annual Certification on the intake structure, as required by s. 1.3.3.1 of this WPDES permit.	01/31/2026
Annual Certification Statement: The permittee shall submit an Annual Certification on the intake structure, as required by s. 1.3.3.1 of this WPDES permit.	01/31/2027
Annual Certification Statement: The permittee shall submit an Annual Certification on the intake structure, as required by s. 1.3.3.1 of this WPDES permit.	01/31/2028
Annual Certification Statement: The permittee shall submit an Annual Certification on the intake structure, as required by s. 1.3.3.1 of this WPDES permit.	01/31/2029
CWIS Application Materials Due: Unless an exemption has been authorized, the permittee shall submit the application materials required in s. NR 111.40(2)(c), Wis. Adm. Code by the Due Date.	12/31/2029
Annual Certification Statement: The permittee shall submit an Annual Certification on the intake structure, as required by s. 1.3.3.1 of this WPDES permit.	01/31/2030
Ongoing Annual Certification Statements: In the event this permit is not reissued by the expiration date and is administratively continued, the permittee shall continue to submit annual certification statements by January 31st of each year.	

3.2 Cooling Water Intake Structures - Upgrades (Intakes 711 and 712)

Required Action	Due Date
Report on Intake Structure: Submit a report on the location, design, operation and capacity of the existing intake structures (Sampling Points 711 and 712).	06/30/2026
Action Plan: Submit for department concurrence a plan describing actions needed to achieve BTA (Best Technology Available) requirements.	06/30/2027
Status Update: The permittee shall submit a report documenting the status of compliance with federal and state BTA requirements.	06/30/2028
Complete Actions: Complete actions necessary to achieve compliance with the BTA requirements.	06/30/2029

3.3 Permit Application Submittal

The permittee shall file an application for permit reissuance in accordance with NR 200, Wis. Adm. Code.

Required Action	Due Date
Permit Application Submittal: Submit a complete permit application to the Department no later than 180 days prior to permit expiration.	12/31/2029

4 Standard Requirements

NR 205, Wisconsin Administrative Code (Conditions for Industrial Dischargers): The conditions in ss. NR 205.07(1) and NR 205.07(3), Wis. Adm. Code, are included by reference in this permit. The permittee shall comply with all of these requirements. Some of these requirements are outlined in the Standard Requirements section of this permit. Requirements not specifically outlined in the Standard Requirement section of this permit can be found in ss. NR 205.07(1) and NR 205.07(3).

4.1 Reporting and Monitoring Requirements

4.1.1 Monitoring Results

Monitoring results obtained during the previous month shall be summarized and reported on a Department Wastewater Discharge Monitoring Report. The report may require reporting of any or all of the information specified below under 'Recording of Results'. This report is to be returned to the Department no later than the date indicated on the form. A copy of the Wastewater Discharge Monitoring Report Form or an electronic file of the report shall be retained by the permittee.

Monitoring results shall be reported on an electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR). The eDMR shall be certified electronically by a responsible executive or officer, manager, partner or proprietor as specified in s. 283.37(3), Wis. Stats., or a duly authorized representative of the officer, manager, partner or proprietor that has been delegated signature authority pursuant to s. NR 205.07(1)(g)2, Wis. Adm. Code. The 'eReport Certify' page certifies that the electronic report form is true, accurate and complete.

If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this permit, the results of such monitoring shall be included on the Wastewater Discharge Monitoring Report.

The permittee shall comply with all limits for each parameter regardless of monitoring frequency. For example, monthly, weekly, and/or daily limits shall be met even with monthly monitoring. The permittee may monitor more frequently than required for any parameter.

4.1.2 Sampling and Testing Procedures

Sampling and laboratory testing procedures shall be performed in accordance with Chapters NR 218 and NR 219, Wis. Adm. Code and shall be performed by a laboratory certified or registered in accordance with the requirements of ch. NR 149, Wis. Adm. Code. Groundwater sample collection and analysis shall be performed in accordance with ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code. The analytical methodologies used shall enable the laboratory to quantitate all substances for which monitoring is required at levels below the effluent limitation. If the required level cannot be met by any of the methods available in NR 219, Wis. Adm. Code, then the method with the lowest limit of detection shall be selected. Additional test procedures may be specified in this permit.

4.1.3 Recording of Results

The permittee shall maintain records which provide the following information for each effluent measurement or sample taken:

- the date, exact place, method and time of sampling or measurements;
- the individual who performed the sampling or measurements;
- the date the analysis was performed;
- the individual who performed the analysis;
- the analytical techniques or methods used; and
- the results of the analysis.

4.1.4 Reporting of Monitoring Results

The permittee shall use the following conventions when reporting effluent monitoring results:

- Pollutant concentrations less than the limit of detection shall be reported as < (less than) the value of the limit of detection. For example, if a substance is not detected at a detection limit of 0.1 mg/L, report the pollutant concentration as < 0.1 mg/L.
- Pollutant concentrations equal to or greater than the limit of detection, but less than the limit of quantitation, shall be reported and the limit of quantitation shall be specified.
- For purposes of calculating NR 101 fees, the 2 mg/l lower reporting limits for BOD5 and Total Suspended Solids shall be considered to be limits of quantitation
- For the purposes of reporting a calculated result, average or a mass discharge value, the permittee may substitute a "0" (zero) for any pollutant concentration that is less than the limit of detection. However, if the effluent limitation is less than the limit of detection, the department may substitute a value other than zero for results less than the limit of detection, after considering the number of monitoring results that are greater than the limit of detection and if warranted when applying appropriate statistical techniques.
- If no discharge occurs through an outfall, flow related parameters (e.g. flow rate, hydraulic application rate, volume, etc.) should be reported as "0" (zero) at the required sample frequency specified for the outfall. For example: if the sample frequency is daily, "0" would be reported for any day during the month that no discharge occurred.

4.1.5 Records Retention

The permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings or electronic data records for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by the permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for the permit for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application, except for sludge management forms and records, which shall be kept for a period of at least 5 years.

4.1.6 Other Information

Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Department, it shall promptly submit such facts or correct information to the Department.

4.1.7 Reporting Requirements – Alterations or Additions

The permittee shall give notice to the Department as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is only required when:

- The alteration or addition to the permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source.
- The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification requirement applies to pollutants which are not subject to effluent limitations in the existing permit.
- The alteration or addition results in a significant change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices, and such alteration, addition, or change may justify the application of permit conditions that are different from or absent in the existing permit, including notification of additional use of disposal sites not reported during the permit application process nor reported pursuant to an approved land application plan. Additional sites may not be used for the land application of sludge until department approval is received.

4.2 System Operating Requirements

4.2.1 Noncompliance Reporting

The permittee shall report the following types of noncompliance by a telephone call to the Department's regional office within 24 hours after becoming aware of the noncompliance:

- any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment;
- any violation of an effluent limitation resulting from a bypass;
- any violation of an effluent limitation resulting from an upset; and
- any violation of a maximum discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by the Department in the permit, either for effluent or sludge.

A written report describing the noncompliance shall also be submitted to the Department as directed at the end of this permit within 5 days after the permittee becomes aware of the noncompliance. On a case-by-case basis, the Department may waive the requirement for submittal of a written report within 5 days and instruct the permittee to submit the written report with the next regularly scheduled monitoring report. In either case, the written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times; the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance; and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the length of time it is expected to continue.

A scheduled bypass approved by the Department under the 'Scheduled Bypass' section of this permit shall not be subject to the reporting required under this section.

NOTE: Section 292.11(2)(a), Wisconsin Statutes, requires any person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance to notify the Department of Natural Resources **immediately** of any discharge not authorized by the permit. **The discharge of a hazardous substance that is not authorized by this permit or that violates this permit may be a hazardous substance spill. To report a hazardous substance spill, call DNR's 24-hour HOTLINE at 1-800-943-0003.**

4.2.2 Bypass

Except for a controlled diversion as provided in the 'Controlled Diversions' section of this permit, any bypass is prohibited and the Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for such occurrences under s. 283.89, Wis. Stats. The Department may approve a bypass if the permittee demonstrates all the following conditions apply:

- The bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
- There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities or adequate back-up equipment, retention of untreated wastes, reduction of inflow and infiltration, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventative maintenance. When evaluating feasibility of alternatives, the department may consider factors such as technical achievability, costs and affordability of implementation and risks to public health, the environment and, where the permittee is a municipality, the welfare of the community served; and
- The bypass was reported in accordance with the 'Noncompliance Reporting' section of this permit.

4.2.3 Scheduled Bypass

Whenever the permittee anticipates the need to bypass for purposes of efficient operations and maintenance and the permittee may not meet the conditions for controlled diversions in the 'Controlled Diversions' section of this permit, the permittee shall obtain prior written approval from the Department for the scheduled bypass. A permittee's written request for Department approval of a scheduled bypass shall demonstrate that the conditions for unscheduled bypassing are met and include the proposed date and reason for the bypass, estimated volume and duration of the bypass, alternatives to bypassing and measures to mitigate environmental harm caused by the bypass. The department may require the permittee to provide public notification for a scheduled bypass if it is determined there is significant public interest in the proposed action and may recommend mitigation measures to minimize the impact of such bypass.

4.2.4 Controlled Diversions

Controlled diversions are allowed only when necessary for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation provided the following requirements are met:

- Effluent from the wastewater treatment facility shall meet the effluent limitations established in the permit. Wastewater that is diverted around a treatment unit or treatment process during a controlled diversion shall be recombined with wastewater that is not diverted prior to the effluent sampling location and prior to effluent discharge;
- A controlled diversion may not occur during periods of excessive flow or other abnormal wastewater characteristics;
- A controlled diversion may not result in a wastewater treatment facility overflow; and
- All instances of controlled diversions shall be documented in wastewater treatment facility records and such records shall be available to the department on request.

4.2.5 Proper Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training as required in ch. NR 114, Wis. Adm. Code, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems only when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

4.2.6 Operator Certification

The wastewater treatment facility shall be under the direct supervision of a state certified operator. In accordance with s. NR 114.53, Wis. Adm. Code, every WPDES permitted treatment plant shall have a designated operator-incharge holding a current and valid certificate. The designated operator-in-charge shall be certified at the level and in all subclasses of the treatment plant, except laboratory. Treatment plant owners shall notify the department of any changes in the operator-in-charge within 30 days. Note that s. NR 114.52(22), Wis. Adm. Code, lists types of facilities that are excluded from operator certification requirements (i.e. private sewage systems, pretreatment facilities discharging to public sewers, industrial wastewater treatment that consists solely of land disposal, agricultural digesters and concentrated aquatic production facilities with no biological treatment).

4.2.7 Spill Reporting

The permittee shall notify the Department in accordance with ch. NR 706 (formerly NR 158), Wis. Adm. Code, in the event that a spill or accidental release of any material or substance results in the discharge of pollutants to the waters of the state at a rate or concentration greater than the effluent limitations established in this permit, or the spill or accidental release of the material is unregulated in this permit, unless the spill or release of pollutants has been reported to the Department in accordance with s. NR 205.07 (1)(s), Wis. Adm. Code.

4.2.8 Planned Changes

In accordance with ss. 283.31(4)(b) and 283.59, Stats., the permittee shall report to the Department any facility expansion, production increase or process modifications which will result in new, different or increased discharges of pollutants. The report shall either be a new permit application, or if the new discharge will not violate the effluent limitations of this permit, a written notice of the new, different or increased discharge. The notice shall contain a description of the new activities, an estimate of the new, different or increased discharge of pollutants and a description of the effect of the new or increased discharge on existing waste treatment facilities. Following receipt of this report, the Department may modify this permit to specify and limit any pollutants not previously regulated in the permit.

4.2.9 Duty to Halt or Reduce Activity

Upon failure or impairment of treatment facility operation, the permittee shall, to the extent necessary to maintain compliance with its permit, curtail production or wastewater discharges or both until the treatment facility operations are restored or an alternative method of treatment is provided.

5 Summary of Reports Due

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Description	Date	Page
Cooling Water Intake Structures - General -Annual Certification Statement	January 31, 2026	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - General -Annual Certification Statement	January 31, 2027	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - General - Annual Certification Statement	January 31, 2028	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - General -Annual Certification Statement	January 31, 2029	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - General -CWIS Application Materials Due	December 31, 2029	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - General -Annual Certification Statement	January 31, 2030	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - General -Ongoing Annual Certification Statements	See Permit	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - Upgrades (Intakes 711 and 712) -Report on Intake Structure	June 30, 2026	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - Upgrades (Intakes 711 and 712) - Action Plan	June 30, 2027	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - Upgrades (Intakes 711 and 712) -Status Update	June 30, 2028	6
Cooling Water Intake Structures - Upgrades (Intakes 711 and 712) - Complete Actions	June 30, 2029	6
Permit Application Submittal -Permit Application Submittal	December 31, 2029	6
Wastewater Discharge Monitoring Report	no later than the date indicated on the form	7

Report forms shall be submitted electronically in accordance with the reporting requirements herein. Any facility plans or plans and specifications for municipal, industrial, industrial pretreatment and non industrial wastewater systems shall be submitted to the Bureau of Water Quality, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. All <u>other</u> submittals required by this permit shall be submitted to:

West Central Region, 1300 W. Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701