

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0065200-02-2

Permittee: Superior Fresh, LLC, W15506 Superior Fresh Drive, Hixton, WI, 54635

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Superior Fresh, LLC, W15506 Superior Fresh Drive

Receiving Water And Location:

Outfall 001: an unnamed tributary to Pigeon Creek located in the Pigeon Creek Watershed within the Trempealeau River Basin in Jackson County

Outfall 014: surface water outfall discharges to a ditch, which flows about 1500 ft prior to meeting with an unnamed tributary of May Coulee Creek, which then flow into Pigeon Creek, all located in the Pigeon Creek Watershed within the Trempealeau River Basin in Jackson County

Outfalls 002, 004, 005, 006, 007, 009, 010, 016 & 017: spray irrigation land treatment outfalls that discharge to the groundwater of the Pigeon Creek Watershed within the Trempealeau River Basin in Jackson County

Outfalls 003, 011 & 012: land application outfalls that discharge to the groundwaters of the Pigeon Creek Watershed within the Trempealeau River Basin in Jackson County

Brief Facility Description: Superior Fresh LLC is a combined aquaponics (aquaculture + aquaponics) facility raising Atlantic salmon along with leafy green vegetables. The water supply for the system is from two private wells and two emergency backup wells. Water from the fish production system (aquaculture) is reused to raise vegetables hydroponically (aquaponic). Effluent from the aquaponics production system is discharged to five storage ponds. Processing fish onsite produces a waste stream containing blood water and a low-level chlorine-based cleaner, and site sanitation practices generate cleaning water that contains antimicrobial additive (peroxyacetic acid and hydrogen peroxide). Both these wastes are added to the storage ponds. Solids slurry from nutrient digesters are discharged to a sand bed for filtration and then discharged via gravity to the storage ponds. From the storage ponds wastewater is discharged to the spray irrigation land treatment system, and is tracked & monitored at outfalls 002, 004, 005, 006, 007, 009, 010. Land treatment Outfall 011 is an absorption pond for backwash water from the greensand filter that's sent to an aeration tank.

The surface water discharge at Outfall 001 is wastewater from the salmon depuration system. No fish or plant production or processing wastewater is discharged to surface water. The actual average discharge to surface water from Outfall 001 in 2022 was 0.039 million gallons per day (MGD). The surface water discharge at Outfall 014 is from the Red Barn and consists of wastewater from the partial recirculating aquaculture system (PRAS). The actual average discharge to surface water from Outfall 014 in January – October 2023 was 0.012 million gallons per day (MGD). The department approved the Water Quality Trading Plan (WQT-2024-0001) submitted by the permittee as a way to demonstrate compliance with water quality based effluent limits (WQBELs) for total phosphorus. Superior Fresh generates WQT credits via streambank stabilization and waterway restoration within the watershed.

Solids generated from the wastewater treatment system are sent to the sludge drying beds. There are three land application outfalls (003, 012 and 013) for tracking compliance of the land application of 1) sludge from the sand bed used for wastewater treatment (Outfall 003), 2) compost of fish offal, fish mortality carcasses and plant waste and carbon bulking agents (Outfall 012), and uncomposted plant waste (Outfall 013).

See specific sections in this fact sheet for details on significant monitoring and/or limit changes in this permit term.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Holly Heldstab, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-0483, Holly.Heldstab@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jenna Monahan, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-4323, jenna.monahan@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Temperature limits, and the associated compliance schedule, have been removed at Outfall 001. Two new spray irrigation outfalls (016 and 017) have been added to the land treatment section. The Land Treatment Management Plan schedule has been updated.

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

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 (715) 492-0483 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.