

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0022420-09-0

Permittee: US Army Headquarters, Fort McCoy, 2171 S 8th Ave, Fort McCoy, WI, 54656-5000

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: US Army Headquarters, Fort McCoy WWTP, 2280 Treatment Drive, Fort McCoy, WI

Receiving Water And Location: the La Crosse River in the Upper La Crosse River Watershed of the Bad Axe-La Crosse River Basin in Monroe County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The US Army at Fort McCoy operates a wastewater treatment facility with a design flow of 2.26 million gallons per day (MGD). The actual annual average flow from July of 2022 to July of 2023 was 0.390 MGD. Preliminary treatment consists of a grit removal and screening. An oxidation ditch with three concentric channels provides secondary treatment. Final clarification is accomplished by two circular clarifiers. Waste activated sludge from the clarifiers is sent to the aerobic digestors. Sludge is dewatered on drying beds, freeze drying beds or hauled off site. Sludge is stored on the drying beds before being land applied on Department approved sites. Phosphorus removal is performed by the addition of ferric chloride. After final clarification effluent is disinfected seasonally using ultraviolet (UV) light and aerated prior to discharge to the La Crosse River. During the last permit term the two final clarifiers were retrofitted with rapid sludge suction headers. Also, in 2021 the trickling filter plant was decommissioned and converted to an extended aeration with activated sludge.

In order to comply with the total phosphorus effluent limitations, Fort McCoy implemented a Department-approved Adaptive Management (AM) Plan, which has been approved for the upcoming permit term (Plan WQT-2024-0006, January 2024) to pursue final phosphorus limit compliance. As part of the requirements of the approved AM plan, a total phosphorus adaptive management interim effluent limit of 0.5 mg/L (6-month average) must be reached during this permit term. Receiving water monitoring requirements have been included in the permit (instream monitoring sample points 601 & 602) in support of the goals and measures of the approved AM plan, as well as an associated AM compliance schedule.

Other significant effluent monitoring and/or limit changes this permit term are as follows: 1) the addition of annual monitoring for total nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate nitrogen and total Kjeldahl nitrogen, 2) addition of daily max & monthly average ammonia limits, 3) an increase in the ammonia monitoring frequency, 4) fecal coliform monitoring & limits have been replaced with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits, 5) addition of chronic WET testing, and 6) monthly monitoring for PFOS and PFOA every has been added in accordance with s. NR 106.98(2)(c), Wis. Adm. Code. The sample frequency for flow has been changed from "continuous" to "daily" at the effluent & influent for eDMR reporting purposes. Additionally, to quantitate the risk, PFAS sludge sampling has been included in the permit pursuant to ss. NR 214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code. A schedule has also been added that requires the permittee have an operator certified in the SS Subclass (Sanitary Sewage Collection System) and obtain Advanced Certification.

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: Logan Rubeck, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 450-5967, logan.rubeck@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 (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.

PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Monroe County Herald, 1302 River Road, PO Box 252, Sparta, WI, 54656-0252

Date Notice Issued: Monday, July 1, 2024