

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0049760-06-0

Permittee: VILLAGE OF POPLAR, PO Box 137, Poplar, WI 54864

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Poplar Village of, 10435E Bayfield Road, Poplar, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Bardon Creek, within the Amnicon and Middle Rivers Watershed, in the Lake Superior Drainage Basin in Douglas County

Brief Facility Description: The Village of Poplar wastewater treatment facility consists of a series of aerated lagoons designed to treat wastewater from primarily domestic users. A main lift station pumps the flow to the facility through a flow metering manhole then to an inclined screen to remove solids. The first aerated lagoon is covered and split by a floating baffle into two cells (Cells 1 and 2). Effluent from the second cell of the first lagoon is directed to the second aerated, covered lagoon. The second lagoon is also split into two cells (Cells 3 and 4). Floating aerators provide aeration and mixing for the first four cells. Effluent from Cell 4 of the second lagoon is directed to the third aerated, covered lagoon which is partially mixed by floating aerators. The effluent from the third lagoon Cell 5 is directed to the final lagoon, Cell 6 which is a covered, non-aerated settling lagoon. The effluent from the settling lagoon is routed through a polishing reactor (media block and aeration) to enhance ammonia removal. Effluent is discharged on a continuous basis via Outfall 001 to the west bank of Bardon Creek.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6076, Sarah.Donoughe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric de Venecia, DNR, 1701 N 4th St, Superior, WI 54880, (715) 685-4155, Eric.deVenecia@wisconsin.gov

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

Proposed Phosphorus Variance: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for phosphorus is needed in this permit to protect water quality. As allowed under s. 283.15, Wis. Stats., Variance to Water Quality Standard the permittee has requested a variance to the phosphorus WQBEL. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted documentation intended to demonstrate eligibility for the variance based on applicable factors. The Department concurs with the demonstration, however this concurrence is subject to US EPA approval before the variance limit may be included in the final reissued permit. In an effort to achieve phosphorus effluent reductions that are practically and economically achievable within the term of the proposed permit, the Department and permittee have mutually agreed upon specific permit conditions that include a variance limitation, monitoring of phosphorus at the frequency described in the permit and submittal of reports on source reduction measures oriented toward attainment of the phosphorus water quality standard. The designated use of the receiving water will not change as a result of the variance.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: **Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 1:00PM,**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/64811234567>

Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Sarah Donoughe, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313, (920) 366-6076

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to s. 283.49, Wis. Stats, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to ensure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above-named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony

presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. 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.

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) 366-6076 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: Superior Telegram

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 424 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Date Notice Issued: May 9, 2026