

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMITS

WPDES permittees Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, City of Stoughton, Village of Oregon, and WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery, located in the Rock River Basin, have entered into a watershed adaptive management approach under s. NR 217.18, Wis. Adm. Code, and Wis. Stat. s. 283.13(7), as a means for these facilities to achieve compliance with the phosphorus water quality standards in s. NR 102.06, Wis. Adm. Code. The phosphorus limitations and conditions in the following permits reflect the approved adaptive management plan no. AM-2025-02 (September 2025).

Permittee Names and Permit Numbers

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (WI-0024597-10-0)
City of Stoughton (WI-0020338-10-0)
Village of Oregon (WI-0020681-10-0)
WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery (WI-0002585-11-0)

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: **Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 1:00pm,**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/bLOWfEkWSOs93agd9RaQQ>

Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Lisa Creegan, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 275-3222

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 actions for these existing discharges.

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.

Proposed Phosphorus Adaptive Management Approach:

Adaptive Management Plan No. AM-2025-02 (September 2025) is a partnership between WPDES permittees and a diverse group of entities that are not WPDES permit holders. The WPDES permittees include three publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) – the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, City of Stoughton, Village of Oregon – and the WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery and various Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) that have signed an intergovernmental agreement to guide implementation of the plan. The adaptive management plan is a means to achieve compliance with the phosphorus water quality standard in s. NR 102.06, Wis. Adm. Code, and the Rock River TMDL. As the approved plan is written, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District shall submit surface

water samples as identified in AM Plan No. AM-2025-02 (September 2025) and shall submit the results as part of the annual reports on the implementation of AM Plan No. AM-2025-02 (September 2025).

The goal for phosphorus load reductions for this permit term within the Yahara River action area, as identified in AM-2025-02 (September 2025), shall be 60% of the contributing phosphorus load from the combination of all four point sources (Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, City of Stoughton, Village of Oregon, and WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery). This contributing load is identified as 65,824 pounds of phosphorus per year from the contributing point sources in the adaptive management plan. If the load reduction goal is not met by March 31, 2031, the watershed adaptive management option may not be available to the participating permittees upon permit reissuance, or alternatively, the Department may request appropriate modifications to the AM plan as a condition of permit reissuance.

Proposed Chloride Variance for Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD): The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for chloride is needed in this permit to protect aquatic life. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee has requested a variance to the chloride WQBEL. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted documentation intended to demonstrate that the treatment of chlorides by the permittee would cause more environmental damage than the continued discharge of effluent at levels currently achievable with current treatment at MMSD and associated source reduction measures. The Department concurs with that assessment; however, this concurrence is subject to USEPA approval before the variance limit may be included in the final reissued permit. In an effort to achieve chloride effluent reductions that are practically and economically achievable within the term of the proposed permit, the Department has included specific permit terms that include an interim limitation, a target value, and source reduction activities. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(3), Wis. Adm. Code, these requirements are contained in the proposed permit.

Proposed Mercury Variance Denial for MMSD: The permittee has applied for an alternative mercury effluent limitation (AMEL). The application included a pollutant minimization program (PMP) plan for mercury as required under s. NR 106.145(8), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department concludes that the permittee is ineligible for a variance based on the information submitted, information on file and the findings provided in s. NR 106.145(2), Wis. Adm. Code.

Proposed Mercury Variance for the City of Stoughton: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) of 1.3 ng/L for mercury is needed to protect wildlife and human health in the below-named receiving water. The permittee has applied for an alternative mercury effluent limitation (AMEL). The application included a pollutant minimization program (PMP) plan for mercury as required under s. NR 106.145(8), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department concludes that the permittee is eligible for a variance based on the information submitted, information on file and the findings provided in s. NR 106.145(1), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department and the permittee have mutually agreed upon an AMEL of 2.3 ng/L, expressed as a daily maximum, continued influent and effluent monitoring, and permit language requiring implementation of the PMP. The Department proposes to grant the AMEL, which represents a variance to the water quality standard used to derive the WQBEL, as provided for under s. NR 106.145(6), Wis. Adm. Code. The designated use of the receiving water will not change as a result of the variance. This mercury variance must be approved by USEPA prior to its inclusion in the final reissued permit.

Permittee: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD)

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1610 Moorland Road, Madison, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Outfall 001 - Badfish Creek (Lower Badfish Creek Watershed, LR07 - Lower Rock River Basin) in Dane County; Land Treatment Outfall 008 - Groundwater (Yahara River & Lake Monona Watershed - Lower Rock River Basin) in Dane County

Brief Facility Description: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Wastewater Treatment Facility (also known as the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant) is located in Madison, Wisconsin and handles the wastewater from five cities, eight villages, and some or all of eight towns representing 24 separate sanitary districts, all located in Dane County. Preliminary treatment is performed by fine screening of inorganic solids and separation of grit in vortex grit tanks. The inorganic solids and grit are hauled to the Dane County Landfill for disposal. The wastewater receives primary and advanced secondary treatment. The advanced secondary treatment system is composed of aeration tanks with selectors and clarifiers. Phosphorus removal is accomplished biologically in this process. Following final clarification, the treated water is disinfected seasonally (March 1-November 30) using ultraviolet disinfection. Treated effluent is discharged to Badfish Creek; discharge to Badger Mill Creek via Outfall 005 was permanently discontinued on 8/16/2024.

Permittee: City of Stoughton

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Stoughton Wastewater Treatment Facility, 700 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Yahara River (Yahara River & Lake Kegonsa Watershed, LR06 - Lower Rock River Basin) in Dane County

Brief Facility Description: The Stoughton Wastewater Treatment Facility is a conventional activated sludge plant consisting of screening, grit removal, primary settling, and biological treatment including Bio-P removal, final clarification, and UV disinfection. Back-up chemical is available to treat side streams (or the forward flow if necessary) for phosphorus. Waste sludge is thickened in a dissolved air flotation thickener before being combined with primary sludge and anaerobically digested. The digested sludge is dewatered on a gravity belt thickener before storage. Landspreading on Department approved farmland is the final disposal option for the stored biosolids.

Permittee: Village of Oregon

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Oregon Wastewater Treatment Facility, 117 Spring Street, Oregon, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Oregon Branch (Badfish Creek Watershed, LR07 - Lower Rock River Basin) in Dane County

Brief Facility Description: The Oregon Wastewater Treatment Facility consists of an activated sludge treatment system with grit removal and automated fine screens as preliminary treatment. The activated sludge process is designed to remove phosphorus biologically as well as BOD and suspended solids. Wastewater passes through four final clarifiers for final settling. Chemical phosphorus treatment with alum is available primarily to treat side streams from sludge processing. A facility plan was approved in 2024 for various treatment plant upgrades including construction of a UV disinfection channel to meet disinfection requirements. New flow ratings were also approved. Sludge is aerobically digested, thickened with a gravity belt thickener and stored in a sludge storage tank. Biosolids are ultimately landspread on DNR approved agricultural fields.

Permittee: WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Nine Springs Creek (Yahara River and Lake Mendota Watershed, LR-08 - Lower Rock River Basin) in Dane County

Brief Facility Description: The WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery produces cold water fish species (brook, brown, and rainbow trout). Trout are hatched from eggs, reared in the rearing house and spiral building, and then placed in concrete raceways and earthen ponds until the desired size has been reached prior to stocking periods. The rearing tanks, raceways, and ponds are fed by artesian water (natural springs and pumped well water). All water from the raceways and spiral building combine in a settling pond for removal of suspended solids, flow to Ponds 18 and 19, and then flow to the horseshoe settling ditch prior to discharge to the Nine Springs Creek via Outfall 001. The hatchery operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

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

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permits. 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(s).

Department of Natural Resources Permit Contacts:

Permit Drafter: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6076, Sarah.Donoughe@wisconsin.gov

MMSD, Stoughton, and Oregon's Basin Engineer: Ashley Brechlin, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 438-9930, Ashley.Brechlin@wisconsin.gov

WI DNR Nevin Fish Hatchery's Basin Engineer: Kenzie Ostien, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 516-6487, Kenzie.Ostien@wisconsin.gov

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Wisconsin State Journal

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 8056, Madison, WI 53708-8056

Date Notice Issued: Friday, December 12th, 2025