

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0002780-10-0

Permittee: Wisconsin Power and Light Co Columbia Energy, W8375 Murray Road, Pardeeville, WI, 53954

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Wisconsin Power and Light Co Columbia Energy, W8375 Murray Rd, Pardeeville, Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: Wisconsin River, groundwaters of the Lower Wisconsin River Basin in Duck and Rocky Run Creeks of Wisconsin River (lower) in Columbia County

Brief Facility Description: Wisconsin Power and Light Co Columbia Energy Center (WPL Columbia) is a base-load facility (2 units, 510 MWe each) using steam from coal combustion to drive electrical generators. The facility utilizes a 480-acre cooling pond and cooling towers to recirculate cooling water removed from the Wisconsin River.

The WPDES permit continues to authorize one surface water discharge outfall for the facility, Outfall 001, which is the cooling water overflow discharge from the cooling pond. However, there has been no overflow since 2010.

Since the most recent permit modification, the facility has ceased discharge of ash transport water to the Ash Ponds, and legacy material from the seepage area was moved into the onsite lined landfill.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sawyer Hanson, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707, (608) 669-4310, Sawyer.Hanson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jordan Main, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 535-0368, jordan.main@wisconsin.gov

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

Cooling Water Intake Structure: The proposed permit contains a determination regarding use of the best technologies available for minimizing impingement mortality and entrainment at the permittee's cooling water intake structure, subject to ch. NR 111, Wis. Adm. Code, and section 316(b) of the federal Clean Water Act.

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 (608) 669-4310 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: Portage Daily Register

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 1640 La Dawn Dr, PO Box 470, Portage, WI 54901

Date Notice Issued: February 16, 2026