

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0066371-02-0

Permittee: Wisconsin Whey Protein, 160 Christensen Drive, Darlington, WI, 53530

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Wisconsin Whey Protein, 160 Christensen Dr, Darlington, WI 53530

Receiving Water And Location: An unnamed tributary to the Ames Branch of the Pecatonica River (Middle Pecatonica River Watershed, Sugar-Pecatonica River Basin) and Groundwaters of the State via approved landspreading sites in Lafayette County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Wisconsin Whey Protein, LLC (WWP) owns and operates a cheese and whey processing facility in Darlington, Wisconsin. WWP receives a maximum 2,000,000 lbs/day of milk to produce a maximum 200,000 lbs/day of white cheddar curd, 650,000 lbs/month of lactose whey powder, and 200,000 lbs./day of liquid delactosed permeate. WWP also receives an additional 200,000 lbs/day of concentrated whey that is processed further on site to produce approximately 600,000 lbs/month of whey protein concentrate 80 powder.

WWP operates an activated sludge wastewater treatment facility that became operational in May 2020 and consists of an EQ tank, automatic strainer, selector tank, two pre-aeration tanks, aeration tank, chemical phosphorus removal, three ultrafiltration membrane units, and two cooling towers. Upgrades completed during the previous permit term included the addition of a fourth ultrafiltration membrane skid, third cooling tower, chiller system, and high strength waste (HSW) tank. Treated effluent is discharged via Outfall 001 Effluent is discharged to an unnamed intermittent tributary (WBIC 921500) for approximately 1.5 miles prior to joining a second unnamed tributary (WBIC 921400). After approximately 0.75 miles, the unnamed tributary (WBIC 921400) connects with Ames Branch (WBIC 921200) and travels an additional approximately 3.9 miles to the Pecatonica River (WBIC 889100). NCCW and reverse osmosis permeate are added within the treatment process or at the end with the wastewater treatment plant effluent, prior to discharge. Industrial liquid sludge from the treatment process is thickened in two DAF units and stored in four onsite sludge storage tanks before being hauled offsite by a contract hauler via Outfall 003. High strength wastes segregated to the HSW tank are also hauled offsite by a contract hauler via Outfall 002.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, N7725 State Road 28, Horicon, WI, 53032, (920) 662-5419, Jennifer.Jerich@Wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Caitlin O'Connell, 1500 N Johns Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533, (608) 716-9964, Caitlin.Oconnell@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 (414) 897-5701 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: Republican Journal

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 316 Main St., Darlington WI 53530

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, July 10, 2025