

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0025739-09-2

Permittee: Wausau Water Works, 407 Grant St, Wausau, WI, 54403

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Wausau Water Works WW Treatment Facility, 435 Adrian Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Receiving Water and Location: The Wisconsin River located in the Lower Eau Claire River Watershed of the Central Wisconsin River Basin in Marathon County

Brief Facility Description: The Wausau Wastewater Treatments Facility (WWTF) treats wastewater from the City of Wausau, the City of Schofield, and the Town of Stettin, as well as industrial wastewater from approximately 20 industries that are regulated under a local pretreatment program. They also accept and treat digested sludge from the Village of Brokaw, domestic holding tank wastes, septic tank wastes, grease trap-interceptor waste, commercial septage and landfill leachate. The Wausau WWTF accepts for treatment from REI Engineering approximately 10 gallons per day (gpd) of petroleum-contaminated groundwater. They also accept groundwater that was previously contaminated with mineral spirits and pentachlorophenol from Wauleco/Sentry Insurance (65,000 gpd) that is pumped and treated prior to discharge to the municipal collection system. The facility has an annual average design flow of 8.2 million gallons per day (MGD). The actual annual average effluent flow from January 2018 to March 2021 was 5.2 MGD. Influent from the above-named sources is first treated at the Wausau WWTF via two mechanical bar screens, followed by a PISTA grit removal system. Subsequent wastewater treatment consists of primary clarification, conventional activated sludge, final clarification and sand filtration. Effluent is disinfected seasonally via ultraviolet light prior to discharge to the Wisconsin River. Waste activated sludge is thickened by a gravity belt prior to anaerobic digestion and then dewatered using two belt filter presses to create Class B cake sludge. Sludge is then recycled via landspreading on Department approved sites. Wausau is nearing completion of a solids handling facility upgrade to produce a variety of sludge products, including, Class B Liquid and Class A Heat Dried Exceptional Quality Biosolids for distribution to the public, land application or landfilling.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Phillip Spranger, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI, 53711, (608) 516-3700, Phillip.Spranger@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Nicholas Lindstrom, DNR, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-1787, Nicholas.Lindstrom@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Wausau Water Works' permit was modified to replace the total phosphorus water quality based effluent limits (WQBELs) calculated pursuant to s. NR 217.13, Wis. Adm. Code, with total phosphorus WQBELs derived consistent with the wasteload allocations in the Wisconsin River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Site-Specific Criteria for Lakes Petenwell, Castle Rock, and Wisconsin. Additionally, Wausau is nearing completion of a solids handling facility upgrade to produce a variety of sludge (biosolids) products. This permit modification adds biosolids sample points and outfalls, including a Class A Exceptional Quality Biosolids that can be distributed to the public.

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

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, 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) 516-3700 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: Wausau Daily Herald

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 800 Scott St. Wausau, WI 54402

Date Notice Issued: April 20, 2022