

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0058726-07-0

Permittee: West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility, 677 Bio Ave, Ellsworth, WI, 54011

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility, 677 Bio Ave, Ellsworth, WI

Receiving Water And Location: GWs of St. Croix and L Chipp River Basins in Trimble River and Isabelle Creek Watershed of Lower Chippewa River Basin in Pierce County

Brief Facility Description: The West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility (WCWBF) processes sludge from 20 communities using the Schwing Bioset Process. Incoming raw sludge is weighed using a truck scale prior to being discharged through one of the following screens, a Lakeside rotomat screen and a Huber drum screen. Screenings are landfilled and sludge that flows through the screen is discharged to one of two sludge storage tanks. Sludge from the sludge tank is pumped to a centrifuge where it is dewatered. The centrate (water that is separated from the sludge in the centrifuge) is hauled back to the municipalities that bring their sludge to the WCWBF for further treatment. The cake sludge, with solids concentrations between eighteen and twenty-five percent, is mechanically mixed with calcium oxide (quicklime) to achieve a pH of greater than or equal to twelve standard units. Sulphamic acid is added and mixed into the sludge/quicklime blend to promote an exothermic reaction which increases the temperature of the mixture to equal to or greater than 55 degrees Celsius. The solids are held in the reactor tube for at least forty minutes, at a minimum temperature of 55 degrees, an ammonium concentration exceeding 0.5 mg ammonium/g of total solids (dry weight) and a pressure exceeding 4.0 psi to create a Class A Exceptional Quality Biosolids Product. The Schwing Bioset Product is stored in a covered building during the winter and is land applied by label, primarily on agricultural land, during the spring, summer, and fall. The facility processes about 2,000 dry US tons of sludge annually. In 2025 the facility processed about 2156 dry US tons of sludge.

Changes proposed for the upcoming permit term include: 1) new sample points for the Class A sludge treatment system, 2) Radium 226 annual sludge sampling, 3) PFAS annual sludge sampling has been included pursuant to ss. NR 214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code to quantitate risk, and 4) an updated sludge management plan.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Angela Parkhurst, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 839-3836, Angela.Parkhurst@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Adebawale Adesanwo, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-4047, adebowale.adesanwo@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 (715) 839-3836 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.