

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0070645-10-1

Permittee: Westby Coop Creamery, 615 N Main St, Westby, WI, 54667-1394

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Westby Coop Creamery, 707 Highland St., Westby, WI

Receiving Water And Location: A noncontinuous stream to the North Fork of the Bad Axe River and the groundwaters of the Bad Axe River Watershed all located in the Bad Axe-La Crosse River Basin in Vernon County.

Brief Facility Description: Westby Co-op Creamery is a dairy processing plant manufacturing cottage cheese, sour cream, butter, yogurt and hard cheeses. Waste generated includes whey, cottage cheese rinse and wastewaters from the cleaning of plant equipment and operations. Whey is sold, cottage cheese rinse and wastewaters are treated via an aerated lagoon system and polishing pond prior to discharge to the noncontinuous stream. The City of Westby and Westby Coop Creamery both discharge to the same noncontinuous stream which leads to the North Fork of the Bad Axe River. Operational changes that occurred during the last permit term are as follows: The permittee has indicated all waste from Outfall 003 is no longer land applied as whey is now being processed through an ultrafiltration-reverse osmosis (RO) polisher. Whey protein from the ultrafiltration process is sold for further processing, permeate from the ultrafiltration process is concentrated with the RO and sold for animal feed, water is recovered from the RO process and polished and then sent to the pond treatment system.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Amy Garbe, DNR, 141 NW Barstow St Rm 180, Waukesha, WI, 53188, (262) 574-2135, Amy.Garbe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Katherine Jerzak, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 491-0207, katherine.jerzak@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Recalculation of limits which resulted in less stringent TSS and BOD technology-based mass limitations and more stringent water quality based limits for TSS and ammonia.

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, 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 (262) 574-2135 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: Vernon County Times

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 1407 St. Andrew Street Suite A100, La Crosse WI 54603

Date Notice Issued: **November 26, 2025**