

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0057436-07-0

Permittee: Abbyland Foods Inc Abbotsford Plant, 502 E Linden St, Abbotsford, WI, 54405

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Abbyland Foods Inc Abbotsford, 502 E Linden St, PO Box 69, Abbotsford, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Elm Brook, located in the Upper Big Eau Pleine Watershed of the Upper Wisconsin River Basin in Marathon County, as well as the groundwaters of the Upper Wisconsin River Basin in Marathon County and the Black River Basin in Clark and Taylor Counties

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Abbyland Foods, Inc. operates a slaughtering facility, multiple production lines, two wastewater treatment facilities and receives domestic and process wastewater from Curtiss and numerous other Abbotsford facilities. The gross result is the production of approximately 0.289 MGD (2024) of wastewater per day. There are two wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF); WWTF1 receives and treats sanitary and process wastewater primarily from the production facilities onsite which include Ready to Eat 1, 2, 3 and Fresh Kitchen (uncooked products). WWTF1 also receives and treats wastewater from Specialty Sausage located across Elm Street. Sanitary wastewater from the human resources center and shipping and receiving are discharged to the sanitary sewer for treatment at the City of Abbotsford WWTF. Influent to WWTF1 begins at a screen lift station which can be diverted to WWTF2 lift station, if needed. WWTF2 was acquired by the City of Abbotsford in 2014 to primarily treat hauled wastewater from the Abbyland at Curtiss facilities. These facilities include the Distribution Center, Service Plaza Truck Wash, and barn & kill floor wastewater from the Pork Plant. Sanitary wastewater from Abbyland Distribution Center, Service Plaza, Travel Plaza, El Norteno Restaurant and Pork Plant are discharged to the Village of Curtiss WWTF. Influent from WWTF2 can be diverted to WWTF1 and vice versa.

Both wastewater treatment plants possess similar treatment processes including equalization, dissolved air flotation (DAF) aeration, and membrane bioreactor (MBR) treatment. Effluent from the two wastewater treatment facilities combine after MBR filtration, but prior to the cooling tower, and before discharging to Elm Brook. Sludge from DAF and MBR from both WWTF1 & WWTF2 discharge to the same aerobic digester and anaerobic digester prior to dewatering, storage and land application on Department approved sites. The "Low Hazardous Waste Exemption" was not renewed by the Department, therefore Outfall 004 (brine wastewater) has been removed from the permit and therefore can only be disposed of at other wastewater treatment facilities. During the last permit term, the facility removed the brine tank air relief valve (2022), installed a cooling tower (2020) and expanded storage for anaerobically stabilized and dewatered sludge. The Specialty Sausage Facility opened in 2016. In 2022 it was determined that although sanitary wastewater is intermingled with process wastewater, Abbyland qualifies for a NR 204 exemption therefore all land applied waste is regulated per NR 214 Wis. Adm. Code.

While slaughtering of animals does take place at this facility, this waste is segregated and slaughterhouse water is land applied or disposed at another facility. The solid screenings such as paunch manure is typically landfilled. Renderings from slaughtering activities are sold to a third party rendering facility. This wastewater is landspread or disposed of offsite. The categorical limits included in the permit are based on production rates and all new production lines were considered in determining these limitations. The new source date for the Meat Cutter category is September 22, 2004 (according to the Boornazian memo dated September 28, 2006).

Abbotsford Beef Plant constructed two Ready-To Eat lines (RTE 2 and RTE 3) in 2007 and 2008, respectively. Abbyland constructed a new Specialty Sausage Plant in 2016. In calendar year 2024, the facility also accepted 65,976 gpd of process wastewater from the Abbyland Curtiss Pork Plant constructed in 1995 and may accept all of the process wastewater from the Distribution Center constructed in 2014. Since the installation and construction of the RTE 2 and RTE 3 lines, Specialty Sausage Plant, and Distribution Center began after promulgation of the applicable effluent guidelines or after proposal of the applicable effluent guidelines (September 22, 2004), the department has determined that the RTE 2 and RTE 3 lines, the Specialty Sausage Plant, and Distribution Center would constitute new sources for Abbyland. Therefore, the production wastewater from these lines are subject to new source performance standards (NSPS) standards for the "Meat Cutter, and "Sausage and Luncheon Meat Processors" subcategories as specified in 40 CFR Part 432 Subparts F and G and ch. NR 258, Wis. Adm. Code.

The facility operates 365 days per year, and in calendar year 2024 treated 282,500 gpd of industrial and 6,500 gpd domestic waste from Abbyland. The Abbotsford Beef Plant processes beef slaughtered at the site (Beef Live Weight Kill is estimated to be 48,280,145 pounds in calendar year 2024) and boned beef from outside sources. Also in calendar year 2024, the Abbotsford Beef Plant produced 149,767,997 pounds of finished product, the Abbotsford Specialty Sausage Plant produced 25,256,387 pounds of finished product and the Curtiss Pork Plant produced 136,654,214 pounds of finished product.

After purchasing WWTF2, the following upgrades were made: grit and solids removal, wastewater pumping, DAF for oil and grease removal, flow equalization, aerobic membrane bioreactor, chemical phosphorus removal using ferric sulfate, aerobic and anaerobic sludge digestion, solids dewatering, and cake storage. The WWTF is currently

undergoing plant modifications including a new headworks building for plant #2 and a new dehydrating building. Plant 2 headworks building will contain two rotary drum screens, two dewatering screws and a vortex style grit chamber. The new dehydrating building will contain two volute dewatering presses and two dehumidification units. The upgrade will also provide more storage for sludge at Outfalls 003, 006, 007 to eliminate the need for winter landspreading.

With the upgrades listed above, WWTF2 treats wastewater from slaughter operations and process wastewater from the Curtiss facility. Barn and paunch manure, barn floor rinse water and wastewater from the head wash area discharges by gravity to the head works of WWTF2. Grit and solids are removed prior to being pumped to the equalization tank. Grit and screen solids are collected and disposed offsite at a sanitary landfill. Wastewater from the equalization tank is pumped to the DAF unit for fats, oil, and grease removal prior to discharge to the aeration basin for aerobic biological treatment. The collected DAF sludge is pumped to the aerobic digester for further treatment. Treated DAF effluent discharges to the aeration basin and MBR. Treated effluent from the MBR discharges by gravity to the old chlorine contact basin prior to discharging to Elm Brook (Outfall 005).

See the associated fact sheet for changes proposed in this permit reissuance.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Holly Heldstab, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-0483, Holly.Heldstab@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Nicholas Lindstrom, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-1787, Nicholas.Lindstrom@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) 492-0483 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.

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