

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0022101-11-0

Permittee: City of Alma, 314 N Main St, Alma, WI, 54610

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Alma Wastewater Treatment Facility, 300 E Laue St, Alma, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Mississippi River in Lower Buffalo River of Buffalo River in Buffalo county

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Alma Wastewater Treatment Facility treats domestic waste from the City of Alma. The annual average design flow of the facility is 0.123 million gallons per day (MGD). The actual annual average influent flow in 2023 was 0.064 MGD. The facility is a mechanical plant with preliminary treatment consisting of a rotomat fine screen, grit removal and aerated equalization. Primary treatment is via a primary clarifier, followed by secondary treatment with two rotating biological contactors and a final clarifier. Phosphorus chemical addition is planned to be installed in the next permit term and will be introduced to the system following the RBCs prior to the final clarifier. Sludge is stored on-site and landspread on Department approved fields. Effluent is disinfected seasonally via ultraviolet light prior to discharge to the Mississippi River. Proposed changes for the next permit term include: 1) addition of annual effluent monitoring for total nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate nitrogen and TKN, 2) fecal coliform limits will be replaced with E. coli limits with an associated compliance schedule to meet them, 3) lower effluent phosphorus interim limits associated with an approved multi-discharger variance for phosphorus (MDV) and compliance schedules to comply with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. requirements for phosphorus, 4) new effluent ammonia limits with an associated compliance schedule to meet them, and 5) PFAS sludge sampling has been included in the proposed WPDES permit pursuant to ss. NR 214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code to quantitate risk, and 6) an operator certification compliance schedule.

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: Jenna Monahan, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-4323, jenna.monahan@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.

Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance: The Department has determined that the permittee is eligible for a phosphorus multi-discharger variance (MDV) in accordance with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. The MDV provides a time extension for the permittee to comply with the final water quality based effluent limits for phosphorus while contributing funds towards nonpoint pollution control projects to reduce phosphorus. Comments on this determination are requested and additional supporting documentation and data are available upon request.

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.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Buffalo County Journal

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 40, Cochrane, WI54622-0040

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, February 6, 2025