

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0050679-08-0

Permittee: CONAGRA FOODS PACKAGED FOODS LLC, W8880 Cty Rd X, Darien, WI, 53114

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: CONAGRA FOODS PACKAGED FOODS LLC, W8880 County Highway X, Darien, Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: Groundwaters of the Turtle Creek Watershed (LR01)

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Conagra Foods Packaged Foods operates a food processing facility located in Darien, Wisconsin. The facility operates on a year-round basis, processing fresh vegetables including carrots, beans, sweet potatoes, and packaged meals. Process wastewater at the facility is generated throughout the processing of fresh vegetables, preparation/packaging of intermediate and finished goods, and utilities/sanitation activities. Process wastewater is discharged to wastewater pretreatment units consisting of screening, flow equalization, chemical addition, and dissolved air flotation to reduce organics, solids and oil and grease, prior to discharging to either the North Lagoon (35 MG) or the West Lagoon (27 MG). Vegetable by-product solids that have been removed via an internally fed rotary drum screen and dewatering screw are discharged into semi-tractor trailers for offsite disposal as animal feed. During a typical year, by-product solids are used as animal feed, not land applied. From the storage lagoons, process wastewater is discharged to any of the four spray irrigation fields: Outfall 006 (103-acres), Outfall 007 (31-acres), Outfall 008 (27-acres) and Outfall 009 (19-acres). Each spray irrigation field is surrounded by an individual groundwater monitoring system.

- Total Phosphorus was added to the monitoring requirements for for Sample Points 101 (North Lagoon) and 102 (West Lagoon)
- The annual nitrogen loading rate for Outfalls 006 and 007 was reduced from 600 lbs/ac/yr to 300 lbs/ac/yr.
- The annual nitrogen loading rate for Outfalls 008 and 009 was reduced from 400 lbs/ac/yr to 300 lbs/ac/yr.
- Dissolved oxygen was added to the monitoring requirements for the Outfall 006, Outfall 007 and North Lagoon groundwater monitoring system.
- Dissolved oxygen and dissolved phosphorus were added to the monitoring requirements for the West Lagoon groundwater monitoring system.
- Dissolved oxygen and dissolved phosphorus were added to the monitoring requirements for the Outfall 008 groundwater monitoring system.
- Dissolved oxygen and dissolved phosphorus were added to the monitoring requirements for the Outfall 009 groundwater monitoring system.
- Total phosphorus, water extractable phosphorus, and total recoverable potassium were added to the monitoring requirements for Sample Point 010 (vegetable by-product solids).
- Water extractable phosphorus was added to the monitoring requirements for Sample Point 013 (lagoon sludge).
- Total phosphorus, water extractable phosphorus, total recoverable potassium and BOD5 were added to the monitoring requirements for Sample Point 014 (wastewater). The monitoring frequency was increased from 1/ 6 months to 1/ 2 weeks.
- Water extractable phosphorus was added to the monitoring requirements for Sample Point 015 (DAF sludge).

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Zachary Watson, 1500 N Johns St, Dodgeville, WI, 53533, (414) 430-0584, Zachary.Watson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Curtis Nickels, 1155 Pilgrim Road, Plymouth, WI 53073, (920) 893-8530, Curtis.Nickels@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 (414) 430-0584 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 AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Delavan Enterprise, 1102 Ann Street, Delavan, WI, 53115

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, February 27, 2025