

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0021300-11-0

Permittee: City of Cornell, City Hall, Cornell, WI, 54732

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Cornell Wastewater Treatment Facility, 602 South 3rd St, Cornell, WI

Receiving Water And Location: the Chippewa River in the McCann Creek and Fisher River Watershed of the Lower Chippewa River Basin in Chippewa County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Cornell Wastewater Treatment Plant is a secondary type treatment facility designed to treat wastewater from the City of Cornell. The facility has an annual average design flow of 0.395 million gallons per day (MGD), and an actual annual average in 2023 of 0.187 MGD. The facility completed Phase 1 of 2 of facility upgrades in 2022 including all new headworks equipment. The primary treatment now includes a vertical fine screen, vortex grit removal with grit washing followed by a Parshall flume, and primary settling tanks. A new septage receiving station with flow equalization was also added. Secondary treatment includes a rotating biological contactor (RBC) and secondary settling tanks. Effluent is disinfected seasonally via ultraviolet radiation prior to discharge to the Chippewa River. Sludge is treated and stored in aerobic digesters before land application on Department approved sites. Significant monitoring and/or limit changes in the upcoming permit term are as follows: 1) addition of influent phosphorus monitoring in 2025 only, 2) increased effluent sample frequencies for CBOD, TSS, phosphorus, and ammonia from 2/week to the standard 3/week, 3) the addition of effluent flow monitoring, 4) the addition of annual effluent monitoring for total nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate nitrogen and total Kjeldahl nitrogen, 5) effluent fecal coliform monitoring has been replaced with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring, and 6) the approved alternate effluent limit for phosphorus will remain at the current limit of 6.0 mg/L (monthly average). Additionally, to quantitate the risk, PFAS sludge sampling has been included in the permit pursuant to ss. NR 214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code.

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: Logan Rubeck, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 450-5967, logan.rubeck@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.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Courier Sentinel,

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 121 Main Street, PO Box 546, Cornell, WI, 54732-0546

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, October 24, 2024