

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0004413-10-0

Permittee: Foremost Farms USA, 684 South Church Street, Richland Center, WI, 53581

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Foremost Farms USA Richland Center, 684 S Church Street

Receiving Water And Location: The Pine River in the Willow Creek Watershed (LW12) of the Lower Wisconsin River Basin in Richland County and Groundwaters of the State via land application.

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Foremost Farms USA facility in Richland Center (FFRC) uses fluid milk, condensed milk, and dried milk products to process mozzarella cheese and dried (or concentrated liquid) whey by-products. FFRC's cheese-making and whey processing wastewaters are segregated into three categories: dairy condensates and permeate clear waters, low strength equipment cleaning and sanitation wastewaters, and high strength dairy liquid wastes.

The condensate-of-whey (COW) water is reused in the plant as make-up water for the boiler and as first stage wash water for the cheese making equipment. The high strength liquid dairy wastes (cream separator, evaporator, and drier first cleaning rinses/washes, off-specification whey, and off-specification milk) are spread on department approved land application sites. Other wastewaters (excess whey permeate, equipment cleaning and sanitation wastewaters, water softener regeneration wastewater, and boiler blowdown water) are currently sent to the Richland Center Renewable Energy (RCRE) wastewater treatment plant.

Foremost actively surface water discharges noncontact cooling water to the Pine River from Outfall 008 via storm sewer and averages 0.4 MGD. Outfall 001 has formerly been used for the discharge of COW water and RO permeate along with noncontact cooling water, but it has not been used since 2007. In the previous permit term, a compliance schedule was included for compliance with Outfall 001 Total Phosphorus WQBELs. Foremost's chosen compliance option was to continue non-use of Outfall 001, indicating an upgrade would be completed to meet limits prior to resuming discharge if Outfall 001 would be needed in the future. Outfall 001 limits are now effective and must be met upon first discharge of Outfall 001 in this permit term.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Laura Rodriguez Alvarez, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53701, (608) 381-2628, laura.rodriguezalvarez@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jordan Main, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 535-0368, jordan.main@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 (608) 381-2628 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: Richland Observer

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 172 E Court Street, PO Box 31, Richland Center, WI, 53581-0031

Date Notice Issued: February 20, 2025