

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0066222-02-0

Permittee: Highway Dairy Farms LLC, 16639 Highway 23 North, Darlington, WI, 53530

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Highway Dairy Farms LLC, 16639 Highway 23 N Darlington

Receiving Water And Location: Surface water and groundwater within the Ames Branch – Pecatonica River Watershed

Brief Facility Description : Highway Dairy Farms, LLC is an existing Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). Highway Dairy Farms, LLC is owned and operated by Jay Stauffacher and Jean Stauffacher. The farm currently has 1,919 animal units (1,300 milking and dry cows, 90 heifers 800-1200lbs.). Highway Dairy Farms, LLC has a total of 3,536.8 acres (1,121.5 owned and 2,415.3 controlled through manure agreements) of which 3,461.1 are spreadable acres. Highway Dairy Farms, LLC has no large expansions planned during the proposed permit term. Approximately 16,792,235 gallons of manure and process wastewater and 104 tons of solid manure is predicted to be generated in the first year of the permit term. The farm has approximately 286 days of liquid manure storage and at least 59 days of solid manure storage. Highway Dairy Farms, LLC is located at 16639 Highway 23 North, Darlington, WI 53530 and is composed of three freestall barns, a dry cow barn, a milking parlor, four waste storage facilities, and a feed storage area with a runoff collection basin. All production areas were inspected the day of the inspection. Highway Dairy Farms, LLC has submitted an application for reissuance of their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit. The application is complete, and the facility has been determined to be in substantial compliance. This will be the second permit reissuance for this facility. Highway Dairy Farms, LLC has an approved Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that is written according to WPDES Permit and Chapter NR 243 Wis. Admin. Code requirements. Highway Dairy Farms, LLC was also found to have at least 180 days of liquid manure storage.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Josie Borgrud, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI, 53711, (608) 598-0026, Josie.Borgrud@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, the terms of the nutrient management plan, or the application, or to request a public informational hearing may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the 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 re-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 re-issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if within 30 days of the public date of this notice, a request for a hearing is filed by any person. The Department shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from USEPA or from 5 or more persons or if the Department determines there is significant public interest. 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 and fact sheet (if required), the operation's nutrient management plan and application may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (608) 598-0026 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 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: Republican Journal

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 316 Main St., Darlington, WI 53530

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, January 23, 2025