

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0042765-09-1

Permittee: Wisconsin Public Service Corp, PO Box 19002, Green Bay, WI, 54307-9002

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Wisconsin Public Service Corp Weston, 2491 Old Hwy 51 P.O. Box 7

Receiving Water And Location: Wisconsin River (Bull Junior Creek Watershed in the Central Wisconsin Basin) at Lat: 44° 51' 20.16" Long: -89° 39' 37.80"

Brief Facility Description: The Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) Corporation - Weston Power Plant is located on the eastern shore of the Wisconsin River near Rothschild, about 7 miles south of Wausau, Wisconsin. Historically the facility consisted of four coal fired steam electric generating units and two reciprocating internal combustion engines. On March 7, 2013, WPS entered a consent decree with EPA over alleged violations of the clean air act and subsequently were required to make changes to various plant operations. In June of 2015, under terms of the consent decree, unit 1 was retired as of 6/1/15. Unit 2 has been retired as of 2/7/23. Unit 3 is a coal-fired stream electric power plant with a rated capacity of 337 MW. And Unit 4 is a supercritical pulverized coal unit with a nominal capacity of 500 MW. Units 3 and 4 operate on a more frequent basis and are considered "base load" generating units, supplying electricity to the grid. Unit 4 is the newest unit, installed in 2008 with an electric generator that uses clean coal technologies.

The Weston Power Plant draws surface water from the Wisconsin River via one intake structure and three deep wells on site. A river water intake clarification system for Units 2 and 3, added in 2008, has allowed the water recycle rate to be increased in the cooling towers. The river clarification system consists of clarifiers that use coagulant, flocculant, hypochlorite, and caustic to reduce iron, manganese, organics and other particulates into the system.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sawyer Hanson, DNR, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707, (608) 669-4310, Sawyer.Hanson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Nicholas Lindstrom, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-1787, Nicholas.Lindstrom@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Removal of pH monitoring and limits at outfall 002.

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

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) 669-4310 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: Wausau Daily Herald

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 800 Scott Street, Wausau, WI 54402-1286

Date Notice Issued: Friday, November 1, 2024