

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0030970-10-0

Permittee: City of Whitehall, City Hall, PO Box 155, Whitehall, WI, 54773

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Whitehall Wastewater Treatment Facility, 36173 Schansberg Rd, Whitehall, WI

Receiving Water And Location: the Trempealeau River located in the Pigeon Creek Watershed of the Buffalo-Trempealeau River Basin in Trempealeau County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The City of Whitehall owns and operates the Whitehall Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) for treatment of domestic wastewater from the City of Whitehall, the Lincoln Sanitary District, Trempealeau County Health Care and the City of Blair. The Whitehall WWTF also treats industrial waste from two dairy industries, Associated Milk Producers Inc. (AMPI) of Blair and Ornuia Ingredients (two plants). The wastewater treatment system consists of six-celled lagoon system with a design flow 1.2 million gallons per day (MGD). The actual annual average influent flow in 2023 was 0.797 MGD. Phosphorus is removed via addition of ferric chloride. No major operational changes occurred during the last permit term, however a facility upgrade is anticipated in this permit term. Significant monitoring and/or limit changes in the upcoming permit term are as follows: 1) the influent and effluent sample frequency for flow has been changed from "continuous" to "daily" for eDMR reporting purposes, 2) the monitoring frequencies at two of the influent sample points increased for some parameters, 3) the effluent monitoring frequency for BOD, TSS, phosphorus and ammonia has increased, 4) the multi-discharger variance (MDV) for phosphorus has been conditionally reapproved and there is a reduction in the interim MDV limit, along with a schedule to meet that lower limit, 5) fecal coliform effluent monitoring and limits will be replaced during the permit term with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits, per the associated compliance schedule, 6) effluent monitoring for PFOS and PFOA has been added in accordance with s. NR 106.98(2)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, 7) effluent copper limits have decreased, 8) addition of zinc monitoring, 9) the variable daily maximum effluent ammonia limit table has been expanded to include applicable limits at a lower effluent pH, and 10) The permittee is required to conduct instream monitoring of the receiving water for copper and total suspended solids as a condition of the dissolved based metals limit calculation approach for copper (results will be submitted at the new Sample point 601). 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: Holly Heldstab, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-0483, Holly.Heldstab@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jenna Monahan, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-4323, jenna.monahan@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.

Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance: The Department has determined that the permittee is eligible for a phosphorus multi-discharger variance (MDV) in accordance with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. The MDV provides a time extension for the permittee to comply with the final water quality based effluent limits for phosphorus while contributing funds towards nonpoint pollution control projects to reduce phosphorus. Comments on this determination are requested and additional supporting documentation and data are available upon request.

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) 492-0483 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.

PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: The Trempealeau County Times, PO Box 95, Whitehall, WI 54773

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, November 6, 2024