

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0065579-02-0

Permittee: BelGioioso Cheese Inc, 7700 N Brown County Line Rd, Pulaski, WI 54162

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: BelGioioso Cheese Inc – Chase, 7700 N Brown County Line Rd, Pulaski, WI

Receiving Water And Location: an unnamed tributary to the North Branch of the Suamico River (Suamico River Watershed in the Green Bay Basin) and groundwaters of the State via approved landspreading sites

Brief Facility Description: BelGioioso Cheese Inc – Chase (BelGioioso) currently receives around 1,500,000 pounds of milk per day to produce Italian style cheeses. Treated process wastewater is discharged to absorption ponds and eventually to groundwater. Noncontact cooling water (NCCW) discharges to an unnamed tributary to the North Branch of the Suamico River and is currently covered under the NCCW General Permit. The NCCW discharge is being incorporated into the reissued individual permit due to long term operation.

The wastewater treatment plant at the Chase facility consists of an influent lift station to collect wastewater from the Chase and Pulaski production facilities. Wastewater is then treated through the following units: equalization tank, primary DAF, anoxic selector tank, aeration basin, and ultrafiltration membranes. Treated wastewater effluent combined with NCCW will be discharged through Outfall 006 to the absorption ponds for further treatment via the land treatment system and ultimate discharge to groundwaters of the State in Oconto County. A groundwater monitoring well network consisting of four monitoring wells has been installed and is associated with the absorption ponds. NCCW may also pass through cooling towers, as needed, and discharge to surface water via Outfall 007. Sludge, or occasionally sludge mixed with raw wastewater, is stored in on-site storage tanks prior to being hauled off-site for disposal.

Summary of Proposed Changes: 1) Addition of Outfall 007 for the discharge of NCCW to surface water, including effluent monitoring and limits. This discharge was previously covered under the NCCW General Permit. 2) Addition of a new Point of Standards Application groundwater monitoring well, including monitoring and limits. 3) Removed groundwater monitoring and limits for pH and manganese at all groundwater wells. 4) Addition of PFAS annual monitoring for the land application of sludge. 5) Addition of a temperature limits schedule due to new thermal limits. 6) Updated due dates for land application and land treatment management plans. 7) Addition of a pollutant minimization program schedule for the land treatment system to investigate total nitrogen discharges. 8) Updated standard language.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6076, Sarah.Donoughe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Laura Gerold, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6728, laura.gerold@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 (920) 662-5148 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: Green Bay Press Gazette

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 23430, Green Bay, WI 54305-3430

Date Notice Issued: Monday, February 19, 2024