

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0039039-10-0

Permittee: Burnett Dairy Cooperative, 11631 State Hwy 70, Grantsburg, WI, 54840

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Burnett Dairy Cooperative, 11631 State Hwy 70, Grantsburg, WI 54840

Receiving Water And Location: Wood River and the groundwater of the St. Croix River basin and the Wood River in the Wood River Watershed within the St. Croix River Basin, Burnett County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Burnett Dairy manufactures approximately 100,000 lbs. of cheese per day and condensed whey. The facility manufactures condensed whey using ultra filtration, reverse osmosis and polishing processes. The process wastewater is composed of two waste streams "Reclaim Water" and High Strength (HS) Wash Water. Reclaim water is discharged to the Ridge and Furrow system. Reclaim water and HS wash water is land spread on DNR approved sites.

A mixture of process wastewater that is not irrigated, cooling tower blowdown water and boiler blowdown water is treated by aerated ponds followed by a Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) system where it mixes with activated sludge, ferric chloride and a flocculant (polymer). Solids are floated to the DAF system surface and removed via skimmer which can be directed to either a storage vessel or returned to the head of the treatment pond as activated sludge. The treated wastewater (effluent) is discharged to the Wood River. Stored sludge is removed and land spread on DNR approved fields as fertilizer.

Wastewater from the aerated ponds can be diverted and stored in the holding lagoon until it is irrigated in one of two irrigation fields. Both systems are planted with cover crops that take up nutrients and water.

There are six active monitoring wells surrounding the ridge and furrow system and spray irrigation fields to assess any groundwater impacts of the discharges.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be March 31, 2029. Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Significant changes from the previous permit include: [1] Modifications to the facility have significantly reduced waste salt brine to the point there isn't a large enough volume to transfer for use as a road deicer. This option has been removed from the permit. [2] A groundwater monitoring well (812) is no longer needed. The facility shall abandon it or perform annual inspections. [3] Effluent limitations for BOD5, Total Suspended Solids, Chlorine and Copper have been included or updated. [4] Quarterly Hardness and the Nitrogen Series (nitrate +nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and total nitrogen) monitoring have been added.[5] Annual Acute and Chronic WET testing are required in rotating quarters, and both now have limits attached to them.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Eric de Venecia, DNR, 1701 N 4TH ST, Superior, WI 54880, (715) 685-4155, Eric.DeVenecia@wisconsin.gov

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) 635-4131 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 AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Burnett County Sentinel, PO Box 397, Grantsburg, WI 54840-0397

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, February 14, 2024