

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0024678-11-0

Permittee: Village of Melrose, P O Box 117, Melrose, WI, 54642-0117

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Melrose Wastewater Treatment Facility, W13985 State Hwy 54, Melrose, WI

Receiving Water And Location: the Black River, located in the Big and Douglas Creeks Watershed of the Black River Basin in Jackson County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Village of Melrose owns and operates the Melrose Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) for treatment of domestic wastewater. The facility has an annual average design flow of 0.054 million gallons per day (MGD) and had an actual annual average influent flow of 0.025 MGD in 2023. The WWTF provides secondary treatment via an aerated lagoon system and seasonal disinfection May – September by chlorination (and subsequent dechlorination). Phosphorus treatment is achieved by the addition of ferric at Manhole A with aeration mixing. The WWTF was upgraded in 2020, including new aeration equipment, the addition of a permanent chemical feed system for ferric chloride addition, new flow control valves, and a new standby generator. The quantity and quality of the effluent discharge has not changed significantly, as the facility previously had a temporary ferric chloride feed system in place for phosphorus reduction. No major operational changes are expected this permit term. Significant effluent monitoring and/or limit changes in this permit term are as follows: 1) the addition of annual monitoring for total nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate nitrogen and total Kjeldahl nitrogen, 2) fecal coliform monitoring and limits have been replaced with Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits, 3) the variable daily maximum ammonia limit table has been expanded to include applicable limits at a lower effluent pH, 4) the ammonia & total suspended solids (TSS) monitoring frequencies have increased and 5) the conditional reapproval of a multi-discharger variance (MDV) for phosphorus and the inclusion of the associated compliance schedules to comply with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. requirements for phosphorus. The influent flow monitoring frequency has been changed from “continuous” to “daily”, and the influent monitoring frequency for BOD5 & TSS has increased. Clarification language has been added notifying the permittee they must monitor sludge for List 2 nutrients and meet the requirements of List 3 (Pathogen Control) and List 4 (Vector Attraction Reduction) prior to landspreading if they remove sludge from the lagoon(s). 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. A schedule has been included in the permit requiring the permittee submit a sludge management plan prior to removal and land application of sludge from the lagoon(s). A schedule has also been added that requires the permittee have an operator certified in the SS Subclass (Sanitary Sewage Collection System) and the P Subclass (Phosphorus).

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.

NAME and ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: The Banner Journal, PO Box 129, Black River Falls, WI 54615

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, February 21, 2024