

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0041149-09-0

Permittee: Phillips Plating Corporation, P O Box 72, Phillips, WI, 54555-0072

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Phillips Plating Corporation, 984 N Lake Avenue, Phillips Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: Elk Lake within the Elk River watershed in the Upper Chippewa River drainage basin, Price County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Phillips Plating Corporation at Phillips electroplates nickel, copper, and chrome onto plastic parts. The electroplating process produces wastewater that has a low pH and contains soluble forms of the metals. The wastewater is treated by chromium reduction, pH adjustment, neutralization, a proprietary chemical precipitation and oxidation process and filtration to remove the metals.

Effluent from the City of Phillips wastewater treatment system combines with Phillips Plating's effluent prior to discharge to Elk Lake. Effluent limitations have been developed for the combined discharges that protect the receiving water quality. Settled solids are removed, dewatered via filter press, dried and hauled to a hazardous waste disposal site.

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] One year of cooperative pH sampling of the combined effluent with the City has been included. [2] A Water Quality Trading (WQT) has been accepted as an alternative phosphorus compliance option. Applicable monitoring, limits and schedule have been included. [3] Monthly PFOS and PFOA and quarterly Nitrogen Series (nitrate + nitrite, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and total nitrogen) monitoring has been added.

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: Arthur Ryzak, DNR, N4103 Highway 27, Ladysmith, WI 54848, (715) 403-2924, arthur.ryzak@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: Price County Review, PO Box 170, Phillips, WI 54555-0170.

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, February 15, 2024