

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0030309-10-0

Permittee: Village of Vesper, PO Box 127, Vesper, WI, 54489-9735

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Vesper Wastewater Treatment Facility, 6363 Hemlock St

Receiving Water And Location: Hemlock Creek of the Hemlock Creek Watershed of the Upper Wisconsin River Southern Sub-basin located in Wood County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The treatment facility is an aerated lagoon system with two ponds that treats domestic wastewater from the Village of Vesper and pretreated effluent from Kerry Ingredients (a cheese and non-dairy creamer producer). Both the primary and secondary ponds are aerated and have baffles across them to enhance treatment and prevent short circuiting. Rotating biological contactor (RBC) units are between the two ponds to provide ammonia removal. Chemical addition is used for phosphorus removal. Effluent is treated seasonally with UV disinfection before discharge to Hemlock Creek. The annual average design flow of the system is 0.103 million gallons per day (MGD) and had an actual annual average of 0.100 MGD in 2022. The permittee resubmitted a dissipative cooling (DC) request to the department. After review, the department determined that a free zone of passage exists in the receiving stream and thereby reapproved the DC request. Therefore, no effluent temperature limits are included this permit term, however one year of effluent temperature monitoring will be required. Significant effluent monitoring and/or limit changes proposed for this issuance are as follows: 1) the conditional approval of a multi-discharger variance (MDV) for phosphorus and the imposition of a lower monthly average interim phosphorus limit along with associated compliance schedules to comply with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. requirements for phosphorus, 2) the addition of annual effluent monitoring for total nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate nitrogen and TKN, 3) seasonal fecal coliform limits have been replaced with E. coli limits, 4) chloride monitoring, 5) a new chronic WET monthly average limit, 6) addition of monitoring for effluent PFOS and PFOA once every two months and an associated determination of need schedule in accordance with s. NR 106.98(2)(b), Wis. Adm. Code., and 6) PFAS sludge sampling has been included in the proposed WPDES permit pursuant to ss. NR 214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code to quantitate risk. Clarification language has been added in the Land Application section 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).

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Angela Parkhurst, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 839-3836, Angela.Parkhurst@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Logan Rubeck, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 450-5967, logan.rubeck@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.

Dissipative Cooling: The department may account for dissipative cooling of the permittee's treated domestic sewage effluent in determining the need for sub-lethal temperature limits pursuant to s. NR 106.59, Wis. Adm. Code. Based on the department's evaluation it has been determined that sub-lethal effluent limits for temperature are not necessary because the permittee's effluent thermal load is adequately dissipated. Comments on this determination are requested.

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) 839-3836 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: Daily Tribune

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 220 1st Ave South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54492

Date Notice Issued: Monday, February 19, 2024