

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION  
SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0040223-08-0

Permittee: Dairyland Power Coop Alma site, 500 Old State Hwy, Alma, WI 54610

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Dairyland Power Coop Alma site, 500 Old State Hwy 35, Alma, Wisconsin, 54610

Receiving Water and Location: East bank of Mississippi River, south of J.P. Madgett screenhouse. N44 18.363' W91 54.787'

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Dairyland Power Cooperative owns and operates the J.P. Madgett Unit coal-fired power station near Alma, Wisconsin. Previously the permittee operated Alma units 1-5 and J.P. Madgett Unit, however the last of the Alma Units were taken offline in October 2014. All discharges covered by this permit are to the Mississippi River with the exception of the coal pile runoff which would discharge to groundwater. The only time the coal pile basins have had any water in them is when the river levels are high. Outfall 006 is process wastewater from a treatment system which consists of chemically assisted settling. De-ice water and intake and screen backwash water are diversions of cooling water and river water and are listed as outfalls for reporting purposes. The outfalls 011, 012, 013, and 014 are being inactivated because they are associated with cooling water, intake screen backwash, and intake de-icing water for the retired units at the Alma station. Stormwater from outfalls 011 and 012 will continue to be covered by the facility's industrial stormwater permit. The proposed permit includes a variance for Mercury Water Quality Based Effluent Limits.

Permit Drafter: Jonathan Hill, DNR, 101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, (608) 267-7627, Jonathan.Hill@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Lori Fassbender, DNR, 910 Highway 54 E, Black River Falls, WI 54615, (715) 284-1458, Lori.Fassbender@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Proposed Mercury Variance: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) of 1.3 ng/L for mercury is needed to protect wildlife and human health in the above-named receiving water. The permittee has submitted an application for an alternative mercury effluent limitation (AMEL). The application included a pollutant minimization program (PMP) plan for mercury as required under s. NR 106.145(8), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department concludes that the permittee is eligible for a variance based on the information submitted, information on file and the findings provided in s. NR 106.145(1), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department and the permittee have mutually agreed upon an AMEL of 4.6 ng/L, expressed as a daily maximum, continued influent and effluent monitoring, and permit language requiring implementation of the PMP. The Department proposes to grant the AMEL, which represents a variance to the water quality standard used to derive the WQBEL, as provided for under s. NR 106.145(6), Wis. Adm. Code. The designated use of the receiving water will not change as a result of the variance. This mercury variance must be approved by USEPA prior to its inclusion in the final reissued permit.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location for the Mercury Variance: June 21, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. at the Buffalo County Courthouse, 407 S. 2nd St. Alma, WI 54610

Hearing Officer: Jonathan Hill, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, (608) 267-7627

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced Mercury Variance for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing. The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to insure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group. Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. 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.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing regarding the proposed permit action 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, 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 the permit drafter's or 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 (608) 267-7627 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (usually 20 cents per page) will be charged for copies of 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.

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