

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION
SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0020044-09-0

Permittee: City of Rhinelander, 135 S Stevens, Rhinelander, WI 54501

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Rhinelander City of, 2775 Highway 17 South, Rhinelander, Wisconsin

Receiving Water and Location: Wisconsin River in the Upper Wisconsin River Drainage Basin in Oneida County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The City of Rhinelander owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility with an annual average design flow of 1.543 million gallons per day (MGD). The actual flows averaged 1.068 MGD (2011 to 2015 data). The facility is an activated sludge plant which consists of headworks to remove debris, primary clarifiers where solids are allowed to settle before flowing into four selector basins. After the selector basins the wastewater is pumped into three aeration basins for organic matter reduction. In the basins the wastewater mixes with activated sludge which breaks down organic matter further stabilizing the wastewater. Activated sludge is composed of settled solids containing active biological material recycled from the treatment system. Two final clarifiers allow the remaining solids to settle. The cleaned wastewater (effluent) is disinfected using an Ultraviolet light system and discharged to the Wisconsin River. The solids (sludge) removed from the clarifiers that isn't returned to reseed the new wastewater entering the system is treated in two anaerobic digesters. The treated sludge is then dewatered and stored until it can be distributed. The sludge treatment process can produce Class A Exceptional Quality sludge which is able to meet quality standards that allow it to be used as a soil amendment in more locations that just agricultural fields, including use by the public for private use.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be June 30, 2021. Appropriate discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and reporting conditions will be included in the permit. Changes from the previous permit include: 1) A new sample point record sample data taken prior to storage. 2) Currently in NR 217 Wis. Adm. Code there are two methods used to determine if a phosphorus limit is needed: a technology based limit (TBL) and a water quality based limit (WQBEL). A TBL of 1 mg/L is appropriate because the facility discharges more than the threshold of 150 pounds per month. Based on the size and classification of the Wisconsin River, the TBL is more protective than the WQBEL and therefore remains in effect this permit term. 3) Effluent thermal limits were calculated for the Wisconsin River. They indicate a daily maximum temperature limit of 120 degrees F year round. Typically, effluent temperatures in a municipal treatment plant need to be less than 90 degrees F in order to guarantee typical treatment plant operation. A limit and monitoring are not required this permit term.

Permit Drafter: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 Maple Street, Spooner, WI 54801, (715) 635-4131, sheri.snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Steven Ohm, DNR, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501, (715) 365-8939, steven.ohm@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 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, 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 (715) 635-4131 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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