

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0029572-10-0

Permittee: Stevens Point City of, P O Box 243, Stevens Point, WI, 54481-0243

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Stevens Point Wastewater Treatment Facility, 301 Bliss Ave., Stevens Point, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Wisconsin River in Little Plover/Plover Watershed of Upper WI River Central Sub-basin in Plover and Little Plover Rivers of Wisconsin River (upper) in Portage County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The City of Stevens Point owns and operates a secondary activated sludge wastewater treatment plant with an annual average design flow of 4.55 million gallons/day (MGD). The Stevens Point WWTF treats domestic, industrial and institutional wastewater, and had treated an actual annual average influent flow of 2.33 MGD in 2024. The plant has headworks consisting of screw pumps, a submersible pump, mechanical fine screens and vortex grit removal. Primary clarification follows the headworks for removal of settleable solids. The wastewater is then treated in an aerobic-anoxic-aerobic activated sludge system for the removal of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and phosphorus. The mixed liquor suspended solids are then settled out in the final circular clarifiers. The treated wastewater is disinfected with ultraviolet light (UV) prior to discharge to the Wisconsin River. Solids removed from the wastewater and biological solids generated from the removal of dissolved pollutants are thickened and then digested in a mesophilic anaerobic digester. Previously liquid sludge was stored prior to land application on department approved sites. This option remains viable to provide solids handling flexibility. Currently the liquid sludge from the digester is thickened using a belt filter press. The cake sludge is staged in a sludge hopper before being fed into the Andritz Paddle Dryer undergoing Heat Drying. The dried sludge is then classified to create uniform particle range of 1 mm to 6 mm for storage into the silo prior to distribution. Sludge particles too large and dust are landfilled. Sludge particles from 6 mm to 1/2 in are recycled into the feed sludge in front of the dryer. Sludge is distributed from the silo. Sludge that does not meet the Class A/EQ criteria pre and post belt press may be land spread on Department approved sites or landfilled.

Proposed permit changes include the following: 1) effluent limit for mercury removed from permit but monitoring and reporting on mitigation efforts remain, 2) replacement of fecal coliform effluent limits with E. coli limits with a one year compliance schedule, 3) addition of weekly and monthly average ammonia nitrogen effluent limits with increased to the minimum monitoring frequency of 5/week for this size facility, 4) 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., 5) lower effluent phosphorus mass limit based on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Wisconsin River, 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, and 7) sludge monitoring frequency was increased to quarterly to conform to Table A, Ch NR 204, Wis. Adm. Code.

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: Nicholas Lindstrom, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-1787, Nicholas.Lindstrom@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.

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: Stevens Point Journal

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: PO Box 7, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Date Notice Issued: May 26, 2025