



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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SUBJECT: Rosendale Dairy Project

To all interested agencies and parties:

The Department of Natural Resources announces the availability of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment and a public information hearing January 22 in Ripon to receive comments on the EIS and on the proposed wastewater discharge (WPDES) permit for the Rosendale Dairy facility in Fond du Lac County.

The applicant, Mr. James Ostrom, is proposing to construct a large dairy facility capable of housing and milking up to 4000 dairy cows and 150 beef cattle (combined 5,750 Animal Units or AUs), with a possible second phase of similar size in the future. The facility will include: freestall barns, a milking parlor, manure handling, storage equipment, feed storage, leachate collection and stormwater basins. The project will be a new dairy operation located at N8997 County Highway M, Pickett, WI 54964, in Section 9, Town of Rosendale, Fond du Lac County. For Phase I, Rosendale Dairy will produce approximately 46 million gallons of liquid waste annually, consisting primarily of liquid manure, that will be stored in the waste storage facilities located at the site and land applied every year. The operation has submitted a nutrient management plan for 5,631 acres of cropland that will be used for land application activities.

The Department has completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as progress toward the Department's compliance with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and will accept public comments on the document. The Department conducted an issue identification process prior to completion of the EIS. The Department released an environmental assessment on September 16, 2008, and received public comments through October 14, 2008. On November 18, 2008, the Department notified interested agencies and parties of its determination to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and provided a timeline for public scoping comments to help identify the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the analysis.

The EIS is available on the Department web-site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/ww/drafts/pubnot.htm>.

Copies are available for public review upon request to Mr. James Pardee at 608-266-0426 or by e-mail at james.pardee@wisconsin.gov. Copies of the EIS will also be available at the following area libraries: Fond du Lac Public Library, 32 Sheboygan St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935; Oshkosh Public Library, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901; and Ripon Public Library, 120 Jefferson St., Ripon, WI 54971.

Any member of the public may submit written comments on the EIS by hand-delivery or U.S. mail to James Pardee at WDNR SS/7, PO Box 7921, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707, or by e-mail to james.pardee@wisconsin.gov. Comments on the EIS shall be postmarked or hand-delivered **no later than February 4, 2009**.

At this time, the Department intends to issue a CAFO WPDES permit that will limit the size of the operation to a maximum of 5,750 AUs. The future Phase II expansion intended to raise the total number of animal units at Rosendale Dairy to 11,500 AUs will require that Rosendale Dairy submit a request for a permit

modification. The Department has also tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be issued for this new operation.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments in writing by **no later than February 4, 2009**, to the Liz Spaeth-Werner at WDNR Oshkosh Service Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI, 54901, (920) 303-5426 or by e-mail to elizabeth.spaethwerner@wisconsin.gov.

The Department will hold a public informational hearing on **January 22, 2009**, at 5pm at the Royal Ridges, 1 Westgate Drive (just off W. Fond du Lac St. which is also known as Hwy 23/49), Ripon, WI 54971. An informational open house will also be held from 2pm to 4pm at the same location. The hearing on the EIS will held on the same day as the hearing on the proposed WPDES permit.

Specifically, on January 22, 2009, at Royal Ridges in Ripon, the Department will provide the following opportunities for the public:

1. An Informal Open House: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The purpose of the open house is to allow members of the public to ask questions of Department staff regarding the EIS and proposed WPDES permit. The purpose of the open house is informational only and verbal comments and questions made at the open house will not be considered part of the record. However, written comments on the EIS or proposed WPDES permit may be submitted at the open house and will be considered part of the record.

2. EIS and WPDES Informational Hearing: 5:00 pm

For the first part of the hearing, the Department will accept comments on the EIS. The second part of the hearing, the Department will take comments on the proposed WPDES permit. Verbal comments on the EIS and WPDES permit must be made at the January 22 hearing to be considered part of the record of the EIS or WPDES permit. Any written comments on the EIS or WPDES permit must be submitted to the Department **by February 4, 2009** to be considered part of the record.

If you would like information on file for the WPDES permit action, including the permit application, draft permit, and fact sheet, may be inspected and copied at the WDNR Oshkosh Service Center, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call Liz Spaeth-Werner at WDNR Oshkosh Service Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI, 54901, (920) 303-5426 or elizabeth.spaethwerner@wisconsin.gov, for directions to the office location, if necessary. Reasonable costs (usually 20 cents per page) will be charged for copies of information in the file other than the public notice and fact sheet. Permit information is also available at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/ww>. 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.

Sincerely,



James Pardee
Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act Coordinator
Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis



Liz Spaeth-Werner
Agricultural Wastewater Specialist
Northeast Region