

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION  
SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0024597-08-0

Permittee: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District, 1610 Moorland Rd., Madison, WI 53713

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District WWTF, 1610 Moorland Road

Receiving Water and Location: Badfish Creek in the NW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 19, T6N, R10E of Dane County and Badger Mill Creek in the SW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 13, T6N, R8E of Dane County.

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District is located at 1610 Moorland Road, Madison, Wisconsin. Preliminary treatment is performed by fine screening of inorganic solids and separation of grit in vortex grit tanks, with the inorganic solids and grit being disposed of in a sanitary landfill. Wastewater receives primary and secondary treatment. Sludge from the primary settling tanks is thickened in two gravity thickener tanks. The secondary treatment system is composed of aeration tanks and clarifiers. Waste activated sludge, from secondary treatment is thickened in two dissolved air flotation units. These sludges are then combined with primary sludge and digested using mesophilic digestion. The digested sludge (biosolids) is thickened using gravity belt thickening, and then pumped to the Metrogro Storage Tanks for temporary storage prior to being recycled to agricultural land. Phosphorus removal from the wastewater is accomplished biologically. Following final clarification, treated wastewater is disinfected (ultraviolet disinfection on a seasonal basis from April 15<sup>th</sup>-October 15<sup>th</sup>). Effluent is discharged to cascade aeration units at two receiving streams-Badger Mill Creek and Badfish Creek. A recently constructed centrifuge dewatering facility and a biosolids end use facility will allow the District to eventually dewater a portion of its biosolids production and combine the dewatered biosolids with various amendments to produce a "soil like" material that can be recycled to non-agricultural markets. Significant changes proposed in this draft permit include: new effluent limits for mercury and chloride (see below) and increased effluent monitoring frequency for chronic whole effluent toxicity testing (twice each year).

Permit Drafter: Robert Liska, DNR, SCR Headquarters, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 275-3288, liskar@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Larry Benson, DNR, SCR Headquarters, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711, (608) 275-3203, larry.benson@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 basin engineer.

The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for chloride is needed in this permit to protect aquatic life. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(2), Wis. Adm. Code, the permittee has requested a variance to the chloride WQBEL. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted documentation intended to demonstrate that the cost of complying with the WQBEL through the use of end-of-pipe wastewater treatment may cause substantial and widespread adverse social and economic impacts in the area where the discharger is located. The Department concurs with that assessment. In an effort to achieve chloride effluent reductions that are practically and economically achievable within the term of the proposed permit, the Department and the permittee have mutually agreed upon specific permit terms that include an interim limitation, a target limit (or value, as the case may be), and certain source reduction activities. As allowed under s. NR 106.83(3), Wis. Adm. Code, these requirements are contained in the proposed permit.

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 permittee is implementing a DNR-approved pollutant minimization program (PMP) plan for mercury as required under s. NR 106.145(8), Wis. Adm. Code. The Department concludes that the permittee has qualified 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 5.7 ng/L, expressed as a daily maximum, continued influent and effluent monitoring, and permit language requiring continued 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.

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 and fact sheet (if required), may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's and 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) 275-3288 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 and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/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.

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