

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION
SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0030651-07-0

Permittee: City of Peshtigo, PO Box 100, Peshtigo, WI 54157-0100

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Peshtigo Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility, N1890 Harbor Road, Peshtigo, Wisconsin

Receiving Water and Location: Peshtigo River in Marinette County

Brief Facility Description: The City of Peshtigo owns a wastewater treatment facility that is operated by Badger Paper Mills, Inc. for treating domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater from the city and process wastewater from the paper mill. The system was designed to treat an average daily flow of 4.2 million gallons per day (MGD) and currently treats about 1.5 MGD on average. Treatment is accomplished with an activated sludge process and seasonal disinfection is provided by chlorination followed by dechlorination. Sludge is aerobically digested and thickened, then stored on-site until it is land applied.

Summary of Proposed Changes: Most of the conditions and requirements in the current permit are included in the proposed permit. The proposed permit includes the addition of a mercury effluent limit and the addition of a sampling point for the permittee to voluntarily report mercury results from samples collected from the Peshtigo River. The mercury effluent limit is being imposed through a proposed variance – see the discussion below regarding the Proposed Mercury Variance. The proposed permit also includes updated standard language, including an additional sludge monitoring requirement for water extractable phosphorus.

Permit Drafter: Richard Sachs, DNR, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 662-5176, richard.sachs@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Bruce Oman, DNR, 101 N Ogden Road, Peshtigo, WI 54157, (715) 582-5012, Bruce.Oman@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.

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 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 11 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.

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 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 (920) 662-5176 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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