

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0025615-10-0

Permittee: City of Thorp, City Hall, P O Box 334, Thorp, WI, 54771-0334

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Thorp Wastewater Treatment Facility, State Highway 29 & Tieman Ave, Thorp, WI

Receiving Water And Location: the North Fork of the Eau Claire River in the North Fork Eau Claire River Watershed of the Lower Chippewa River Basin in Clark County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Thorp Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) treats domestic wastewater from the City of Thorp. The facility treated an average 0.484 million gallons per day (MGD) of domestic wastewater in 2023. The permittee is in the middle of a plant upgrade. The pre-upgrade WWTF had an annual average design flow 0.331 MGD and the post-upgrade facility will have an annual average design flow of 0.423 MGD. The pre-upgrade WWTF, now decommissioned, consisted of a coarse-bubble, three-cell aerated lagoon system and final holding pond that was operated on a fill and draw basis. The post-upgrade WWTF has an influent pump station with fine screening, along with fine-bubble aeration, an ammonia polishing reactor, ultraviolet (UV) treatment for seasonal disinfection and chemical treatment with addition of ferric chloride for phosphorus removal. The “new” holding pond is sectioned into three with one part baffled off as a settling zone and a separate portion of the holding pond to allow for future expansion. The post-upgrade facility has a continuous discharge to the North Fork of the Eau Claire River.

Significant effluent monitoring and/or limit changes in the upcoming permit term are as follows: 1) the addition of annual monitoring for total nitrogen, nitrite + nitrate nitrogen and total Kjeldahl nitrogen, 2) the variable daily maximum ammonia limit table has been expanded to include applicable limits at a lower effluent pH & the limits apply year-round, 3) seasonally variable weekly & monthly avg. ammonia limits are reduced and the variable daily maximum ammonia limit table has been expanded to include applicable limits at a lower effluent pH, 4) the conditional reapproval of a multi-discharger variance (MDV) for phosphorus and the inclusion of the associated schedules to comply with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. requirements for phosphorus, 5) the daily max. BOD limits have been removed and the weekly & monthly average concentration limits that vary by month have been added, 6) seasonal Escherichia coli (E. coli) monitoring and limits have been added & apply at the permit effective date, 7) addition of dissolved oxygen monitoring & a limit, and 8) addition of copper monitoring. The sample frequency for influent & effluent flow has been changed from “continuous” to “daily” for eDMR reporting purposes. Sample point 601 has been added that requires the permittee monitor the receiving water to support the dissolved-based copper limit calculations. A schedule has been included requiring the permittee submit an updated Land Application Management Plan. Additionally, to quantitate the risk, PFAS sludge sampling has been included in the permit pursuant to ss. NR 214.18(5)(b) and NR 204.06(2)(b)9., Wis. Adm. Code.

Permit Drafter’s Name, Address, Phone and Email: Holly Heldstab, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI, 54701, (715) 492-0483, Holly.Heldstab@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer’s Name, Address, Phone and Email: Jenna Monahan, 1300 W Clairemont Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 492-4323, jenna.monahan@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.

**Phosphorus Multi-Discharger Variance:** The Department has determined that the permittee is eligible for a phosphorus multi-discharger variance (MDV) in accordance with s. 283.16, Wis. Stats. The MDV provides a time extension for the permittee to comply with the final water quality based effluent limits for phosphorus while contributing funds towards nonpoint pollution control projects to reduce phosphorus. Comments on this determination are requested and additional supporting documentation and data are available upon request.

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) 492-0483 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.

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