

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0023094-08-1

Permittee: Hillshire Brands Co., N3620 County Road D, New London, WI 54961

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Hillshire Brands Co., N3620 County Road D, New London, WI

Receiving Water And Location: Wolf River in Outagamie County

Brief Facility Description: Hillshire Brands Co. (Hillshire) is a meat processing facility which produces hot dogs, smoked sausage, hams, lunchmeats and other meat products. Meat processing wastewater and sanitary wastewater generated at the production facility is treated on-site and discharged to surface water via the Wolf River. Treatment processes at the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) include the following: influent fine screening, influent pumping, pH control using carbon dioxide, dissolved air floatation for primary treatment, activated sludge with biological phosphorus removal for secondary treatment, belt press dewatering of dissolved air floatation solids and waste activated sludge, and dewatered cake disposal by contractor. Solids may be hauled by contractors and spread on agricultural sites; however, Hillshire rarely landspreads solids and typically disposes of solids via landfill. Facility upgrades over the current permit term include tertiary phosphorus treatment, chlorination/dechlorination, and a new discharge outfall directly to the west bank of the Wolf River via a force main (Outfall 006). The permittee began discharging effluent through the force main when the permit was reissued (October 1, 2023). Outfall 006 is the primary effluent discharge point. Effluent may still be discharged via Outfall 001 to an unnamed tributary to the Wolf River. Outfall 001 is located on the west side of the facility's fence perimeter.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sarah Donoughe, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-6076, Sarah.Donoughe@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Heidi Schmitt Marquez, DNR, 2984 Shawano Ave, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 366-8691, Heidi.SchmittMarquez@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: The permit modification is being proposed to resolve a Wis. Stat. s. 283.63 contested case hearing petition filed by Hillshire Brands Co. on November 17, 2023. In the proposed modification, chloride effluent limits were removed at Outfall 006. Chloride effluent monitoring remains year-round. In addition, clarification was added to the effluent monitoring table notes for E. coli indicating that E. coli monitoring and limits only apply May-September, each year.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above-specified WPDES permit should be modified.

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 (920) 662-5148 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 AND ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: New London Press Star, 301 S Pearl St, New London, WI 54961

Date Notice Issued: Thursday, April 25, 2024