

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN
POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0049069-05-0

Permittee: LSP Whitewater Limited Partnership, 111 County Hwy U, Whitewater, WI 53190

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: LSP Whitewater Limited Partnership, Intersection CTH U & Whitewater WWTP Access Road

Receiving Water and Location: 111 County Hwy U Whitewater WI 53190 to the Whitewater Creek (Whitewater Creek Watershed, LR14 - Lower Rock River Basin) in Jefferson County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: LSP Whitewater (LSP) is a nominal 245 megawatt (MW) dual-fuel combined cycle cogeneration plant providing up to 245 MW of electrical energy to WE Energies and 30,000 pounds (lbs)/hour of steam to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The facility was built in 1995. In addition, the facility also provides hot water to the commercial greenhouse located west of the facility. The facility houses two turbines, a combustion turbine, and a steam turbine. The primary fuel is natural gas; diesel fuel can be used as a back-up fuel when needed and is used during annual tests. All process water used by the facility is obtained from the City of Whitewater Water Utility.

Wastewater generated from this facility consists primarily of cooling tower blowdown (5 cycles), demineralizer regenerant wastes, reverse osmosis reject, and miscellaneous plant and equipment drains. The facility uses sulfuric acid and sodium hydroxide for pH control and for demineralizer regeneration. The facility uses sodium hypochlorite and sodium bromide for cooling tower biogrowth treatment and dechlorinates with sodium bisulfite. Oil and grease and solids are controlled with an oil/water separator. pH is controlled with a neutralization system prior to discharge. The facility utilizes a number of boiler treatment chemicals to maintain proper boiler chemistry and to limit corrosion.

Wastewater samples are collected at two In-Plant Sampling Points and at a final Outfall. Sampling Point 101 is the cooling tower blowdown. Sampling Point 102 represents all other low volume wastewater. Outfall 001 is the combined effluent from Sample Point 101 and 102. The effluent from the facility travels through a pipe which then combines with the discharge pipe from the City of Whitewater Wastewater Treatment Plant (WPDES Permit No. WI-0020001). This combined effluent then discharges to Whitewater Creek. Effluent limitations have been developed for the combined discharge that protects the receiving water quality. Outfall 002 is the combined effluent from LSP and the City of Whitewater WWTP. The permittee has been found to be in substantial compliance with its current permit.

Permit Drafter: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, Horicon Service Center, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI 53032, (920) 387-7886, Jennifer.Jerich@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Amy Garbe, DNR, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, (262) 574-2135, Amy.Garbe@Wisconsin.gov

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

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 is eligible 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 **3.93 ng/L**, expressed as a daily maximum and monthly average, 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. This mercury variance must be approved by USEPA prior to its inclusion in the final reissued permit.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: January 10, 2017 at 10 a.m., Waukesha WDNR Service Center, Room 151, 141 NW Barstow, Waukesha, WI 53188

Hearing Officer: Jennifer Jerich, DNR, Horicon Service Center, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI 53032, (920) 387-7886, Jennifer.Jerich@wisconsin.gov

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing. The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to insure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group. Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. 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.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, 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) 387-7886 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, 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.

PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Whitewater Register, 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115
Date Notice Issued: November 24, 2016