

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-0003204-09-0

Permittee: Cellu Tissue - City Forest, LLC dba Clearwater Paper - Ladysmith, 1215 E Worden Ave., Ladysmith, WI 54848

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Cellu Tissue - City Forest, LLC dba Clearwater Paper - Ladysmith, 1215 E Worden Ave., Ladysmith, WI 54848

Receiving Water and Location: Flambeau River in Ladysmith, WI

Brief Facility Description: Cellu Tissue – City Forest, LLC (hereafter Cellu Tissue) is a paper mill in Ladysmith, WI that produces tissue products from recycled paper fibers. The mill has an annual average production of 175 tons per day (TPD) of tissue products as well as 30 TPD of wet lap pulp from deinked recycled paper. The major components of the mill include a river water intake structure, intake water clarifier, two paper machines, a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), and sludge handling equipment.

Cellu Tissue's paper making process sends noncontact cooling water, process wastewater, and boiler blowdown year round to the WWTP. Contaminants from pulp cleaning and papermaking are removed by in-factory screening, primary settling, and activated sludge treatment facilities. Cellu Tissue's wastewater treatment plant consists of a primary clarifier, a 0.5 million gallon first stage activated sludge basin that contains an anaerobic biological selector zone (1/3 of basin) and an aeration zone with fine bubble diffusers (2/3 of basin). The mill wastewater is nutrient deficient so nitrogen and phosphorus are added to sustain biological treatment. The wastewater is then treated further in a 1 million gallon second stage aeration basin with surface aerators. A final clarifier is used to separate the activated sludge from clear water before discharging to the Flambeau River.

Wastepaper deinking and wastewater treatment at the facility produces a waste sludge. The dissolved air flotation (DAF) deink sludge, wastewater treatment primary settled sludge, and the waste activated sludge from the final clarifier are mixed in a blend tank. The mixed sludge is then dewatered on a gravity belt thickener followed by a belt press filter. The sludge filtrate is returned to the primary influent wet well. The dewatered sludge is a gray fibrous cake that is mostly unusable paper fibers. Dewatered sludge is either transported to a sanitary landfill or land applied on Department approved sites.

All sanitary wastes are discharged to the City of Ladysmith wastewater treatment plant.

Permit Drafter: Ian Hansen, DNR, 101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921, (608) 266-9239, Ian.Hansen@Wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Lon Franson, DNR, 10220 State Highway 27 South, Hayward, WI 54843, (715) 634-7434, Lon.Franson@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 3.5 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 14 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. This mercury variance must be approved by USEPA prior to its inclusion in the final reissued permit.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: December 27, 2016 at 11:00 am at the Ladysmith DNR Satellite Center, N4103 Hwy 27, Ladysmith, WI 54848

Hearing Officer: TBD; for information call Ian Hansen at 608-266-9239

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 (608) 266-9239 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: The Ladysmith News, PO Box 189, Ladysmith, WI 54848-0189
Date Notice Issued: November 10, 2016