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-0041149-08-0
Permittee: Phillips Plating Corporation, PO Box 72, Phillips, WI 54555-0072
Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Phillips Plating Corporation, 984 N Lake Avenue, Phillips Wisconsin
Receiving Water and Location: Elk Lake within the Elk River watershed in the Upper Chippewa River drainage basin, Price County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Phillips Plating Corporation at Phillips electroplates nickel, copper, and chrome onto plastic parts. The electroplating process produces wastewater that has a low pH and contains soluble forms of the metals. The wastewater is treated by chromium reduction, pH adjustment, neutralization, a proprietary chemical precipitation and oxidation process and filtration to remove the metals. The removed metals are dried and hauled to a hazardous waste disposal site. The process wastewaters are discharged via a storm sewer to Elk Lake. Effluent from the City of Phillips wastewater treatment system combines with Phillips Plating's effluent prior to discharge to Elk Lake. Effluent limitations have been developed for the combined discharges that protect the receiving water quality.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be March 31, 2023. Appropriate discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and reporting conditions will be included in the permit.

Proposed Phosphorus Variance: The Department has determined that a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) for phosphorus is needed in this permit to protect water quality. As allowed under s. 283.15, Wis. Stats., Variance to Water Quality Standard the permittee has requested a variance to the phosphorus WQBEL. In support of this request, the permittee has submitted documentation intended to demonstrate eligibility for the variance based on applicable factors. The Department concurs with the demonstration, however this concurrence is subject to US EPA approval before the variance limit may be included in the final reissued permit. In an effort to achieve phosphorus effluent reductions that are practically and economically achievable within the term of the proposed permit, the Department and permittee have mutually agreed upon specific permit conditions that include a variance limitation, monitoring of phosphorus at the frequency described in the permit and submittal of reports on source reduction measures oriented toward attainment of the phosphorus water quality standard. The designated use of the receiving water will not change as a result of the variance.

Permit Drafter: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 Maple Street, Spooner, WI 54801, (715) 635-4131, sheri.snowbank@wisconsin.gov
Basin Engineer: Lonn Franson, DNR, 10220 State Highway 27 South, Hayward, WI 54843, (715) 634-7434, lonn.franson@wisconsin.gov

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: April 11, 2018, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Spooner Department of Natural Resources Office, 810 West Maple, Spooner, WI 54801

Hearing Officer: T.B.A.

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 (715) 635-4131 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.

PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Price County Review, PO Box 170, Phillips, WI 54555-0170
Date Notice Issued: February 15, 2018