

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-0003034-09-0

Permittee: Mule Hide Mfg. Company, 50 Bridge St., Cornell, WI, 54732

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Mule Hide Mfg. Company, 50 Bridge Street

Receiving Water And Location: Chippewa River in the McCann Creek and Fisher River Watershed of the Lower Chippewa River Basin in Chippewa County.

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Mule-Hide Manufacturing Co., Inc. (hereafter simply MHM) manufactures approximately 210 tons per day of dry roofing felt and facer. To produce the felt recycled paper and wood chips are refined in a thermo mechanical pulping system which provides the raw material for two paper machines. In facer production fiberglass replaces the wood fiber as the raw material and sizing and carbon black are also added. MHM treats and recycles most of its process wastewaters. In-plant treatment includes pH control, screening and primary clarification. Sludge from the primary clarifier is either recycled into the finished product or landfilled.

Not all wastewaters are recycled, however. Seal water and bearing cooling water from stock pumps, defibrators and chip refiners, water softener (ion exchange) regeneration wastes, sand-filter backwash water, boiler blowdown, and noncontact cooling water are combined and discharged to the catch basin via Outfall 001.

Changes to the permit:

Outfall 002 and Sample Point 009 have been removed from this permit due to the encapsulation of Outfall 002 so that it can no longer be used.

Intake Flow Monitoring has been added to the permit.

A Settleable Solids limit of 0.2 ml/L has been added to the permit as well as Acute WET testing at Outfall 001.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Emma Lorenzen, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921, (608) 267-7643, Emma.Lorenzen@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Geisa Thielen, 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701, (715) 836-7570, Geisa.Thielen@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 48 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: October 4th at 2 pm located at 1300 W Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Jason Knutson, 101 S. Webster St. PO Box 7921, Madison, WI, 53707-7921, (608) 267-7894

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 above named 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 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 (608) 267-7643 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 OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Courier Sentinel

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 121 Main Street PO Box 546 Cornell, WI 54732-0546

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