

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0021687-10-0

Permittee: BARRON-CAMERON WWTF, PO Box 156, BARRON, WI, 54812

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Barron Cameron Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1295 16th Street, Barron, Wisconsin

Receiving Water And Location: The groundwater of the Yellow River Watershed in the Lower Chippewa River Drainage Basin in Barron County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The City of Barron owns and operates an aerated pond wastewater treatment system. This plant treats waste from homes and businesses in the community and from the Village of Cameron. It is designed to handle 784,000 gallons per day; actual flows averaged 511,000 gallons per day (2019-2023 data). The facility consists of four aerated ponds/cells that use naturally occurring aerobic bacteria and organisms to metabolize organic matter in the wastewater. Effluent is discharge to groundwater via three different soil absorption systems used alone or in combination. During the winter (November – April) effluent is directed to three engineered seepage ponds. Spring and summer (May - October) effluent can be discharged to a wooded overland seepage area, or a spray irrigation field planted with crops. Eight monitoring wells are used to monitor and identify any potential impacts the discharged effluent may have on groundwater.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be June 30, 2029. Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Significant changes from the previous permit include: [1] Phosphorus monitoring is required for effluent discharged to the land treatment systems. [2] In the overland flow phosphorus monitoring has been added. [3] Groundwater Preventative Action Limits for Nitrite+Nitrate, Chloride, pH, Ammonia, Organic Nitrogen, and Total Dissolved Solids have been adjusted per ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code. [4] One PFAS sample of sludge is required.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Carson Johnson, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI 54801, (715) 205-7507, carson.johnson@wisconsin.gov

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 (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.

NAME and ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Barron News-Shield, PO Box 100, Barron, WI 54812-0100

Date Notice Issued: Wednesday, April 10, 2024