

**STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO MODIFY A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0021920-09-1**

Permittee: Viroqua, City of, City Hall [202 N Main St., Viroqua, WI 54665](#)

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Viroqua Wastewater Treatment Facility, 1315 CTH B, Viroqua, WI
Receiving Water and Location: unnamed tributary to the Springville Branch of the Bad Axe River, in the
Bad Axe River Watershed of the Bad Axe / La Crosse Rivers Basin located in Vernon County
Brief Facility Description: The City of Viroqua owns and operates a 0.60 MGD activated sludge type
wastewater treatment facility with year-round UV disinfection, and a new design flow of
0.535MGD. The facility had an actual annual average flow in 2011 of 0.343 MGD. The facility discharges
to the unnamed tributary of the Springville Branch of the Bad Axe River. Wastewater treatment
includes a conventional activated sludge process, fine screening, primary clarification, anaerobic
digestion, and UV disinfection prior to discharge. Changes proposed for the permit modification include
the addition of relocated final effluent outfall 005 which moves the discharge from upstream of
fractured bedrock and groundwater to surface water with more restrictive limits. The new outfall
requires the same monitoring requirements as the current outfall with the following additions: 1)
addition of a weekly average effluent fecal coliform limit, 2) reducing BOD and TSS effluent limits with
lower 15 mg/L weekly and monthly averages from 30 mg/L weekly averages, 3) addition of BOD effluent
mass limits of 66 lbs/day weekly average, 4) new temperature monitoring, 5) new ammonia effluent
limits of 14 mg/L weekly average and 5.8mg/L monthly average, and 6) reducing final phosphorus
effluent limits with lower 0.54 mg/L monthly average, and 0.17 mg/L, 0.75 lbs/day 6 month averages
effective the next permit term.

Permit Drafter: Angela Parkhurst, DNR, WCR Headquarters, [1300 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701](#), (715) 839-3836, angela.parkhurst@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Julia Stephenson, DNR, [3550 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse, WI 54601](#), (608) 785-9981, julia.stephenson@wisconsin.gov

Proposed Modification: Relocating the facility effluent outfall to satisfy the requirements of the current permit's compliance schedule that requires the prevention of the direct discharge to fractured bedrock and groundwater. All proposed effluent limits are either new effluent limits, the same as current limits, or more restrictive limits.

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

Dissipative Cooling: The department may account for dissipative cooling of the permittee's treated domestic sewage effluent in determining the need for sub-lethal temperature limits pursuant to s. NR 106.59, Wis. Adm.Code. Based on the department's evaluation it has been determined that sub-lethal effluent limits for temperature are not necessary because the permittee's effluent thermal load is adequately dissipated. Comments on this determination are requested.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: **Monday, September 26, 2016, 1:00-3:30 pm, Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Rooms A/B, [507 South Main Street, Viroqua, WI 54655](#)**

Hearing Officer: Mike Vollrath , DNR, WCR Headquarters, [1300 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54701](#), (715) 839-3796, michael.vollrath@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. The Department is providing less than 30 days notice prior to the hearing for this permit action due to the request by citizenry to hold a hearing as soon possible regarding the proposed outfall structure (see **"Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Intake Outfall"** below).

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 [\(715\) 839-3836](tel:7158393836) 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.

Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Intake Outfall

Sarah Grainger, [202 N Main Street, Viroqua, WI 54665](#) has applied to the Department of Natural Resources for a permit to place an intake/outfall structure on the bed of Springville Br Bad Axe River.

The project is located in the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 23, Township 13 North, Range 5 West, Town of Jefferson, Vernon County.

The City of Viroqua is upgrading the City's Waste Water Treatment Facility's (WWTF) outfall by constructing a pressurized pipeline (force main) to a new outfall location approximately 2 miles northwest of the existing WWTF. This is necessary because a large fraction of the water in the stream that currently receives the effluent disappears into the ground. The pipeline will cross the stream about 400 ft east of the outfall, and will be placed by trenching through the stream. The proposed outfall structure includes a staircase-like cascade to help oxygenate the effluent before it enters the stream.

The Department will review the proposal provided by the applicant and any information from public comments and the public informational hearing. The Department will determine whether the proposal complies with ss. 1.11 and 30.12(3m), Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and ensure that the required mitigation meets the standards in s. 281.36(3r), Stats. if the project impacts wetlands.

The Department has made a tentative determination that it will issue the permit or contract for the proposed activity.

If you would like to know more about this project or would like to see the application and plans, please visit the Department's permit tracking website at <https://permits.dnr.wi.gov/water/SitePages/Permit%20Search.aspx> and search for WP-IP-WC-2016-63-X03-10T09-54-27.

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

The public hearing is scheduled for **Monday September 26, 2016, 1:00 – 3:30 pm, Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Rooms A/B, [507 South Main Street, Viroqua, WI 54655](#).**

The Department scheduled a public hearing on this activity or project because the Department received a request for a public hearing. The hearing will be a public informational hearing where members of the public can learn more about the proposed activity and submit written or oral comments about the waterway and project in light of the legal standards above.

Any member of the public may submit written comments by emailing Angela.Parkhurst@wisconsin.gov or writing to Angela Parkhurst, DNR, WCR Headquarters, [1300 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI, 54701](#), by U.S. mail. Comments should include the docket number or applicant name, and should relate to whether the project meets the legal standards listed above. Comments must be postmarked no later than 10 days after the date that the public informational hearing is completed in order for them to be considered.

The final decision may be appealed as indicated in the permit decision document.
Docket Number IP-WC-2016-63-00769