

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A DRAFT NPDES PERMIT TO DISCHARGE INTO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5, NPDES Programs Branch - WN-16J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 886-6106

Public Notice No.: 12-06-02-A

Public Notice Issued On: June 22, 2012

Comment period ends: July 23, 2012

Permit No.: MI-0054861-4 (REISSUANCE)

Application No.: MI-0054861-4

Name and Address of Applicant:

**Name and Address of Facility
Where Discharge Occurs:**

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
Public Works Department
7070 East Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858

Isabella Reservation WWTP
7375 East Tomah Road
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
Isabella County
(S.E. ¼ of the N.W. ¼ of S20, T14N, R3W)

Receiving Water: Unnamed tributary to Onion Creek.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT'S FACILITY AND DISCHARGE

The above named applicant has applied for an NPDES Permit to discharge into the designated receiving water. The permit will be issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency since the discharge is located within the Saginaw Chippewa's Isabella Reservation.

The permittee operates a 0.58 mgd (0.70 mgd maximum daily) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Headworks treatment consists of screening and grinding. Wastewater then flows into a pre-equalization tank where it is stored and batch fed to three sequencing batch reactors (SBR) with phosphorus removal. Treated water is then decanted to the post-equalization tank where it is pumped to either of two sand filters for final "polishing" prior to flowing through two ultraviolet disinfection units. The effluent gravity flows through a recirculation channel to the final discharge point at the unnamed tributary to Onion Creek. Two six million gallon aerated lagoons are available for additional treatment and holding if necessary. Wastewater is generated by domestic sources only including a casino.

Solids from the SBR units will be wasted to one of two sludge reaction tanks for lime stabilization. Lime stabilized sludge will be transferred to one of two 500,000 gallon sludge storage tanks. From the storage tank, the sludge will be beneficially recycled via bulk land application to an agricultural

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site located within the Isabella Reservation boundaries. The following land application site has been identified as the site to receive sewage sludge during the permit term. It is not expected additional sites will be needed, however, the permit requires notification both to EPA and locally if additional sites will be used. As new sites are identified, information on those sites will be available for inspection at the Regional Office.

Site Name	Site Location
Perotta	Section 4 Township 14N Range 3W Chippewa Township, Isabella County, Michigan

The draft permit requires the applicant to meet the following effluent limitations:

Parameter	Date	Monthly Average	7-day Average	Daily Maximum	Daily Minimum
CBOD ₅	May - November	7 mg/L 34 lbs/d	38 lbs/d	10 mg/L	
	December - March	25 mg/L 121 lbs/d 85 % removal	40 mg/L 193 lbs/d		
	April	13 mg/L 63 lbs/d	97 lbs/d	20 mg/L	
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	May - November	20 mg/L 97 lbs/d	30 mg/L 145 lbs/d		
	December - April	30 mg/L 145 lbs/d 85 % removal	45 mg/L 218 lbs/d		
Ammonia	May - September	2.2 mg/L 10.6 lbs/d			
	October - November		10 lbs/d	2 mg/L	
	December - March	Report			
	April		29 lbs/d	6 mg/L	
Dissolved Oxygen	May - September				3 mg/L
	October - November				6 mg/L
	December - March				5 mg/L
	April				4 mg/L
Total Phosphorus	All Year	1 mg/L 4.8 lbs/d		1.5 mg/L 7.2 lbs/day	

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E. coli	All Year	126 E. coli/100ml*		235 E. coli/100ml	
pH	All Year			9.0 S.U.	6.5 S.U.

The permit also requires monitoring for Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, Nitrate plus Nitrite Nitrogen, Oil and Grease, mercury, compliance with 40 CFR Part 503 and any other applicable regulations when sludge is used or disposed, and 40 CFR Part 403 to prevent any pass through of pollutants or any inhibition or disruption of the permittee's facility. These limits are consistent with federal regulations and are also intended to be protective of Michigan water quality standards where they are applicable.

Section 401 Water Quality Certification

EPA is the appropriate authority for purposes of certifying the proposed discharge under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Section 401 certification is not needed from the state or the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe as neither has federally approved water quality standards applicable to the receiving water at the point of discharge.

ESA and NHPA Compliance

EPA believes it has satisfied its requirements under the Endangered Species Act and the National Historical Preservation Act. As this is an existing discharge, with no planned construction during the permit term, EPA does not believe that the issuance of the permit will have any effect on endangered or threatened species or their habitat and that no historic or cultural properties will be affected.

TENTATIVE DETERMINATION

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of applicable standards and regulations, the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 5 proposes to issue a permit for the discharge from the Isabella Reservation Wastewater Treatment Plant subject to certain effluent limitations and special conditions.

COMMENT PROCEDURES and PUBLIC HEARING

The determination to issue the NPDES permit is tentative. EPA's comment and public hearing procedures may be found at 40 CFR 124.10, 124.11, 124.12, and 124.13. The following is a summary of those procedures:

1. The comment period during which written comments on the draft permits may be submitted extends to July 23, 2012.
2. During the comment period, any interested person may request a public hearing by filing a written request which must state the issues to be raised. The last day for filing a request for public hearing is July 23, 2012.

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3. In appropriate cases, including those where there is significant public interest, the EPA Regional Administrator may hold a public hearing. A decision has not yet been made as to whether a public hearing will be held for this permit. Public notice of such a hearing will be circulated in at least one newspaper in the geographical area of the discharge and to those persons on the EPA mailing list at least 30 days prior to the hearing.
4. All comments received later than July 23, 2012, may be considered in the formulation of final determinations.
5. Written comments or requests for a public hearing must be delivered or mailed to: John A. Colletti, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, NPDES Programs Branch - WN-16J, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604

The application and Public Notice numbers should appear next to the EPA address on the envelope and on each page of any submitted comments. It is important that all viewpoints are considered before taking action. Therefore, we greatly appreciate your time and effort in participating in the public participation process. EPA will notify the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permit decision.

PETITION TO REVIEW

Within 30 days following the service of notice of the Regional Administrator's final permit decision, any person who filed comments on the draft permits or participated in a public hearing, if held, may petition the Environmental Appeals Board to review any condition of the permit decision. The petition should be sent to the following address: Environmental Appeals Board, MC 1103B, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

The application, draft permit, including proposed effluent limitations and special conditions, statement of basis, and other documents contained in the administrative record, are available for inspection and may be copied at a cost of 15 cents per page at the Chicago Regional offices of the Environmental Protection Agency anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also view the public notice, statement of basis, and draft permit on Region 5's website at "<http://www.epa.gov/region5/water/npdestek/notices.htm>". All data submitted by the applicant is available as part of the administrative record. For more information, please contact John Colletti at (312) 886-6106 or by e-mail at colletti.john@epa.gov.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of anyone you know that would be interested in this matter.