

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-0064629-02-0

Permittee: NEW Organic Digestion LLC, 6601 County Road R, Denmark, WI 54208-0396

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: NEW Organic Digestion LLC, 6601 County Road R, Denmark, Wisconsin

Receiving Water and Location: Groundwater of the state of Wisconsin via land application on approved sites

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: This facility operates an anaerobic digester which receives industrial wastes, primarily from slaughterhouses, although other compatible wastes are also treated. Influent waste is delivered by trucks to a 50,000 gallon receiving tank which discharges to the influent mixing zone of a 1.8 million gallon Mixed Plug-Flow™ digester. Depending on the influent flow the hydraulic retention time is between 20 and 30 days. The digester is currently being operated in the mesophilic temperature range (90°-100° F). Following the digester three screw presses separate the treated waste into liquid and solid fractions. The liquid wastes (considered sludge per NR214) are stored in a 4.8 million gallon concrete storage structure prior to landspreading on approved sites. The solids, after further drying, are sold as animal bedding material. These solids can be land applied on approved sites if not sold. The anaerobic digester is operated 24 hours per day, 7 days/week. Electricity is also produced by the anaerobic digester through methane production and combustion.

NEW is currently permitted to receive industrial wastes from Green Bay Dressed Beef (American Foods Group), Johnsonville Sausage, Agropur-Luxemburg, sludge from a DAF unit and organic wastes from Sanimax of Green Bay, Cattle Truck Washwater from the Bradley Pit, JBS – Green Bay Packing Plant and Sandy Bay Mink Ranch's slaughter operation. The facility has also received approval, pending a final determination, to receive pickle wastes from Bay Valley Foods. Bradley Pit washwater is not currently being discharged to NEW's digester.

Over the past eleven months (Jan-Nov 2016) influent loading to the digester has averaged 82,000 gallons per day. This results in a retention time of 22 days. Loading to the digester has increased about 45% since the permit was issued. This increase has resulted in more sludge being generated. In 2015, the facility reported that it had land applied 9.5 million gallons of sludge and had hauled 6.3 million gallons of sludge to other facilities. This total of 15.8 million gallons of sludge generated in 2015 was approximately 50% higher than the amount generated in 2012. Onsite sludge storage capacity has been increased and the permittee received plan approval to upgrade the digester.

The proposed upgrade will include converting the current 1.8-million gallon digester into an equalization tank, construction of a new 6.0-million gallon two tank plug flow anaerobic digester, construction of a new 7.0-million gallon sludge storage tank, three new screw presses, biogas conditioning systems and other mechanical upgrades.

The new system will generate pipeline grade natural gas that will be compressed and hauled offsite. It isn't expected that the new process will change the sludge nutrient levels significantly. The permittee is considering additional nutrient removal systems at the end of the process. If the sludge generated from this further treatment have significantly lower nutrient levels the land application management plan can be amended to reflect the changes. Annual monitoring is required of all influent wastestreams to the digester along with monitoring the volume of each waste on a daily basis. In addition to Bay Valley Foods and Agropur Little Chute has been included in the draft permit. The Department pre-approval requirement for the introduction of new wastestreams to the digester is retained. Sample point descriptions and sample parameter units have been clarified in the draft permit. The Schedule portion of the permit requires submittal of an updated land application management plan.

Permit Drafter: Nanette E. Jameson, DNR, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 662-5174, nan.jameson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer: Bruce Oman, DNR, 101 N Ogden Road Ste A, Peshtigo, WI 54157-1734, (715) 582-5012, Bruce.Oman@Wisconsin.gov

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

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.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 2:00 pm, Denmark Village Hall, 118 E Main St, Denmark, WI 54208

Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Jeff Pritzl, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, 920 662-5127, jeffrey.pritzl@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.

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 (920) 662-5174 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.

PUBLISHING NEWSPAPERS: Green Bay Press Gazette, PO Box 23430, Green Bay, WI 54307-3430; Denmark News, PO Box 728, Denmark, WI 54208-0728
Date Notice Issued: February 9, 2017