



PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-19-14
July 22, 2019

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT: The Western Sugar Cooperative

FACILITY NAME: The Western Sugar Cooperative - Billings Facility

FACILITY LOCATION: 3020 State Avenue, Billings, MT 59101

RECEIVING WATER: Yegen Drain, Grey Eagle Ditch, and Ground Water

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0000281

This permitting action is the renewal of an existing Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit for discharge from The Western Sugar Cooperative (WSC) - Billings facility, a sugar beet processing facility. The proposed permit includes MPDES coverage for:

- Outfall 001: Process & cooling wastewater to the Yegen Drain (to the Yellowstone River)
- Outfall 002: Process wastewater to Grey Eagle Ditch (to Yegen Drain and ultimately the Yellowstone River)
- Outfalls 004 - 007: Process wastewater from four wastewater treatment ponds to ground water (connected to surface water)

All six outfalls at WSC are subject to the Technology-based Effluent Limits under 40 CFR 409 for Beet Sugar Processing. In addition, WSC is subject to Water Quality-based Effluent Limits; both interim (*E.coli* bacteria (summer), oil & grease, total residual chlorine, nitrate +

nitrite, and the current ammonia limits); and final (the same, plus summer nutrient standards and more stringent ammonia limits). The final limits will be effective 58 months after the permit effective date. Monitoring for these and other pollutants of concern will be required.

The proposed permit includes Special Conditions requiring WSC to submit a comprehensive strategy to ensure reductions of all pollutants of concern and complete construction and/or fully implement the projects within 48 months from the effective date of the permit, and a Compliance Schedule for meeting final limits within 58 months from the effective date of the permit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited **ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS August 22, 2019.** Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked **PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS August 22, 2019,** will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail the Department at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-5546 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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