

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
PERMITS SECTION
235 PROMENADE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5767

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT ACTION UNDER THE RHODE ISLAND POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (RIPDES) PROGRAM WHICH REGULATES DISCHARGES INTO THE WATERS OF THE STATE UNDER CHAPTER 46-12 OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED.

DATE OF NOTICE: May 7, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN 21-02

DRAFT RIPDES PERMIT

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: **RI0100064**

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Town of Westerly
45 Broad Street
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Westerly Wastewater Treatment Facility
87 Margin Street
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

RECEIVING WATER: **Pawcatuck River (WBID: RI008038E-01A)**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: **SB1**

The facility, which is the source of the discharge, is located in the Town of Westerly and is engaged in the treatment of industrial and domestic wastewater from the sanitary sewer system in the Town of Westerly. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) last issued the facility's RIPDES Permit in 2013. This draft permit includes more stringent limits for total nitrogen and new limits for total arsenic. The more stringent and newly incorporated limits are assigned to be protective of the receiving water (Pawcatuck River). The permit also requires the Town to complete a Sewer Lateral Connection Investigation (SLCI) to identify and remove sources of excess water into the sewer system and to submit a Resiliency Plan. The DEM anticipates entering into a Consent Agreement, subsequent to issuance of this permit, which will establish enforceable compliance schedules to achieve compliance with the new and more stringent permit limits.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

A Fact Sheet (describing the type of facility and significant factual, legal and policy questions considered in these permit actions) may be obtained at no cost by emailing or calling DEM as noted below:

Max Maher
Environmental Engineering Associate
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767
(401) 222-4700 ext. 77201
e-mail: maximilian.maher@dem.ri.gov

The administrative record containing all documents relating to these permit actions is on file and may be inspected, by appointment, at the DEM's Providence office mentioned above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Pursuant to Chapter 42-17.4 of the Rhode Island General Laws a public hearing has been scheduled to consider this permit if requested. Requests for a Public Hearing must be submitted to the attention of Max Maher as indicated above. Notice should be taken that if DEM receives a request from twenty-five (25) people, a governmental agency or subdivision, or an association having no less than twenty-five (25) members on or before 4:00 PM on June 7, 2021, a public hearing will be held at the following time:

5:00 PM Thursday June 10, 2021

In accordance with Executive Order 20-25 the public hearing will be held virtually. The virtual public hearing, if held, may be accessed by members of the public using the following link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81692832731>

Meeting ID: 816 9283 2731

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81692832731# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,81692832731# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 816 9283 2731

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81692832731>

Interested persons should contact DEM to confirm if a hearing will be held at the time noted above.

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call DEM at the number listed above or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

Interested parties may submit comments on the permit actions and the administrative record to the address above no later than 4:00 PM June 11, 2021.

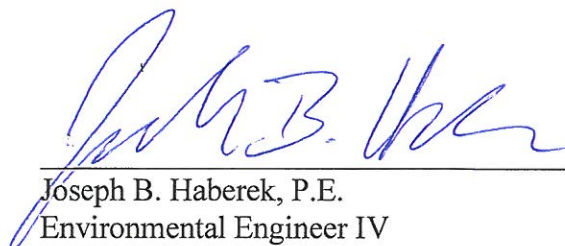
If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning the permit, DEM may require a new draft permit or fact sheet or may reopen the public comment period. A public notice will be issued for any of these actions.

Any person, including the permittee/applicant, who believes these permit actions are inappropriate, must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position, including all supporting material, by the close of the public comment period under 250-RICR-150-10-1.42 of the Regulations of the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. The public comment period is from May 7 to June 11, 2021. Commenters may request a longer comment period if necessary, to provide a reasonable opportunity to comply with these requirements. Comments should be directed to DEM as noted above.

FINAL DECISION AND APPEALS:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the Director will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the permittee and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within 30 days following the notice of the final decision, any interested person may submit a request for a formal hearing in accordance with the requirements of 250-RICR-150-10-1.50 of the Regulations of the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

4/29/2021
Date



Joseph B. Haberek, P.E.
Environmental Engineer IV
RIPDES, Office of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Management