

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 ACTIONS 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: March 11, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: PN-22-01

**DRAFT RIPDES PERMITS**

RIPDES PERMIT NUMBER: RI0020141

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Okonite Company  
5 Industrial Road  
Cumberland, RI 02864

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Okonite Company  
111 Martin Street  
Ashton, RI 02864

RECEIVING WATER: Blackstone River

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: B1

The facility which is the source of the wastewater discharge is located in Ashton. The facility was previously engaged in the manufacturing of insulated wires and cables and has been converted over to a storage warehouse with significantly scaled back manufacturing. The facility has one production line with a wastewater discharge. The discharge from the facility consists of contact cooling water, and boiler blowdown / steam condensate. The draft RIPDES permit for the facility, which is a reissuance of a 2016 permit, maintains existing permit limitations for pH, BOD, TSS, Total Copper, Oil and Grease. The permit also maintains requirements for monitoring for Cadmium and Lead, due to the receiving water being impaired for those parameters. In addition, effluent Phosphorus monitoring has been eliminated and effluent Iron monitoring has been added due to changes in water body impairment status for those parameters. In addition, permit limits for flow have been lowered due to the decrease in the facility's maximum daily discharge amounts, and effluent temperature limits have been eliminated from the permit due to the discharge not having any potential to cause a water quality impact for temperature. Also, the sampling locations for boiler blowdown and contact cooling water have been assigned to separate internal outfall numbers. And the compressor condensate and air conditioning condensate discharges have been eliminated. The proposed permit reissuance also contains language which prohibits the use of

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boiler additive chemicals.

The DEM has determined that the proposed activities comply with the Policy on the Implementation of the Antidegradation Provisions of the Rhode Island Water Quality Regulations and that existing uses will be maintained and protected. A detailed evaluation of the water quality impact from the proposed activities and any important benefits demonstrations, if required, may be found in the statement of basis which is available as noted below.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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

Samuel Kaplan, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer II  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
Office of Water Resources  
Permits Section  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767  
(401) 222-4700 ext. 2777046

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 these permits if requested. Requests for a Public Hearing must be submitted in writing to the attention of Samuel Kaplan at the address 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 4:00PM, Tuesday, April 12, 2022, a public hearing will be held at the following time and place:

Thursday, April 14, 2022 5:00PM  
Room 280  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

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

235 Promenade Street is accessible to individuals who are handicapped. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call Samuel Kaplan 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 4:00 PM on Friday, April 15.


If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning the permit, DEM may require a new draft permit or statement of basis 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 Friday, March 11, 2022 to Friday, April 15, 2022. 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.

3/7/2022  
Date

  
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Joseph B. Haberek, P.E.  
Administrator of Surface Water Protection  
Office of Water Resources  
Department of Environmental Management