

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: March 27, 2023
Permit No.: MI0026751
Designated Site Name: Mackinac Island WWTP

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), proposes to modify a permit to the City of Mackinac Island for the Mackinac Island Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 3134 Stonecliff Rd, Mackinac Island, Mackinac County, Michigan 49757. The applicant collects wastewater from Mackinac Island. The applicant discharges treated municipal wastewater to Lake Huron.

The draft permit includes the following modifications to the previously issued permit:

Permit language has been revised to incorporate updated references and terminology. The following new conditions have been added to the draft permit: Final Effluent Limitations Monitoring Point 001A (1.538 MGD), Additional Monitoring Requirements, Asset Management, Discharge Monitoring Requirements – Quality Assurance Study Program, and Continuous Monitoring. The following condition has been removed from the draft permit: Short Term Waste Characterization Study. Required weekly reporting for Ammonia Nitrogen is now specified. Required monthly reporting for Chloride and Sulfate is now specified. A quarterly limit for zinc is now specified. The parameters PFOS, PFOA, and PFBS have been added to the Additional Monitoring Requirements section.

The final effluent limitation for total mercury has been changed to 5.0 nanograms per liter (ng/l), which is the discharge-specific level currently achievable based on a multiple discharger variance (MDV) from the water quality-based effluent limit of 1.3 ng/l, pursuant to R 323.1103(9) of the Part 4 Rules, Water Quality Standards, promulgated under Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

This draft permit authorizes an increased loading of pollutants to the Lake Huron, which will lower the water quality with respect to certain parameters. The permitted discharge shall not cause an exceedance of water quality standards in the receiving water. In accordance with R 323.1098 of the Part 4 Rules, Water Quality Standards, promulgated under Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, the applicant submitted an Antidegradation Demonstration. The WRD proposes that the applicant's Antidegradation Demonstration, based on information required by Subrule (4) of R 323.1098, shows that lowering of water quality is necessary to support the identified important social and economic development in the area. This is solely for purposes of satisfying state water quality regulations and is not intended to supplant local requirements, including land use or zoning laws. It is not, and should not be, construed as a finding by the WRD that the proposed development meets local requirements or ordinances. In addition to the proposed permit, the WRD is proposing to accept the Antidegradation Demonstration as adequate.

Copies of the permit application, Public Notice, Fact Sheet, Antidegradation Demonstration, Basis for Decision Memo, draft permit, and other relevant documents associated with this proposed permitting action may be obtained via the Internet at <https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/> (select 'Public Notice Search,' enter the permit number into the search field, and then click 'Search'), or you may request copies be mailed to you by contacting Sherry Thelen at email: ThelenS5@michigan.gov, or telephone: 517-290-9607.

Persons wishing to submit comments on the draft permit should do so through MiEnviro Portal. Go to <https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/>, select 'Public Notice Search,' search for this public notice by entering the permit number into the search field, click 'Search,' click 'View,' click 'Add Comment,' enter information into the fields, and then click 'Submit.' Comments or objections to the draft permit and proposed decision concerning the Antidegradation Demonstration received by April 26, 2023, will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit, as will comments made at a public hearing should one be requested and held by the Department on the draft permit.

Any person may request the Department to hold a public hearing on the draft permit. The request should include specific reasons for the request, indicating which portions of the draft permit constitute the need for a hearing. If submitted comments indicate significant public interest in the draft permit or if useful information may be produced, the Department may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing on the draft permit. If a public hearing is scheduled, public notice of the hearing will be provided at least 30 days in advance. Inquiries should be directed to Thomas Miller, Permits Section, WRD, EGLE, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958; telephone: 517-899-2960; or e-mail: MillerT45@michigan.gov.

The discharge-specific level currently achievable for total mercury was developed in accordance with the WRD's approved MDV. A copy of the MDV may be obtained via the Internet at <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/water-resources/npdes> (under About NPDES, select Applicable Rules and Regulations), or you may request copies be mailed to you by contacting Sherry Thelen.