

**STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF COMPLETE
STREAMLINED MERCURY VARIANCE (SMV)
APPLICATION**

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 20220401 – IN0020478 – SMV

NOTICE DATE: APRIL 1, 2022

RESPONSE DATE DUE: MAY 2, 2022

Applicant: Town of LaGrange, NPDES Permit No. IN0020478, 402 Nursery St., LaGrange, Indiana, 46761, LaGrange County.

- I. Type of Application: Streamlined Mercury Variance (SMV):** On December 17, 2021, the Town of LaGrange submitted a SMV application for the Town of LaGrange Wastewater Treatment Plant under the requirements of 327 IAC 5-3.5. The SMV establishes a streamlined process for obtaining a variance from a water quality criterion used to establish a Water Quality Based Effluent Limitation (WQBEL) for mercury in a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Based on staff review and application of pertinent standards & regulations, IDEM has determined the SMV renewal application and accompanying Pollutant Minimization Program Plan (PMPP) to be complete per requirements in 327 IAC 5-3.5-7 and 327 IAC 5-3.5-9. The SMV is for the Town of LaGrange Wastewater Treatment Plant's Outfall 001.
- II. Facility Operations:** The Town of LaGrange Wastewater Treatment Plant is a Class III, 1.8 MGD oxidation ditch-type treatment facility. Preliminary treatment consists of a rotating fine screen and grit removal followed by the biological treatment system consisting of an anaerobic selector and two oxidation ditches for advanced secondary treatment. A chemical feed system is available for phosphorus removal. Two circular clarifiers for secondary clarification are followed by ultraviolet light disinfection and post aeration prior to discharge. Waste activated sludge is thickened in two aerobic digesters prior to dewatering with a belt filter press. Dewatered sludge is applied to agricultural sites under Land Application Permit No. INLA000274 and/or land filling at Waste Management Landfill sites. The Town of LaGrange Wastewater Treatment Plant's Outfall 001 is located at GPS coordinates 41° 39' 02" N, 85° 24' 48" W, and discharges to Fly Creek.
- III. Contact Person:** Jay Hanko, Office of Water Quality, Permits Branch, 100 North Senate Avenue Room 1255, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251; phone: 317-233-0704, or Jhanko@idem.IN.gov.
- IV. Comments/Public Hearing:** In accordance with rule 327 IAC 5-3.5-5, IDEM is required to Public Notice the receipt of a complete SMV application and solicit public comment. Anyone interested is invited to submit written comments regarding the formulation of the Final Determination to issue the SMV. A public hearing may be requested by submitting to IDEM a written request which must include the name & contact information (address, phone, E-mail) of the person making the request, the interest of the person making the request, persons represented by the person making the request, the reason for the request, and the issues proposed for consideration at the Hearing. If the Department determines a need for a Public Hearing based on the comments and requests received, notice will be published 30 days prior, in the newspaper of the geographical area of the discharge and on IDEM's website. All comments & requests **must be postmarked no later than May 2, 2022**. Notice will be sent to all persons submitting comments or requesting notification. Notice of Final Permit action will not be made to persons who fail to request such notice.

IDEM may require the SMV applicant to modify the SMV application to be consistent with the requirements of 327 IAC 5-3.5-9. All related documents are on file & may be inspected at Office of Water Quality/NPDES Permits Branch/Municipal NPDES Permits Section, IGC North Rm 1255, 100 N. Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN from 9 - 4, M - F, (copies 10¢ per page).

- V. **Additional Information:** Based on staff review and application of pertinent standards & regulations, IDEM has determined the SMV renewal application and accompanying PMPP to be complete and proposes to incorporate the SMV as a condition of the NPDES permit through reissuance of NPDES Permit No. IN0020478 in accordance with 327 IAC 5-3.5-6. The Permit will be issued to include the requirements of the applicant's PMPP and an interim discharge limit for mercury calculated based on the procedures of 327 IAC 5-3.5-8. The SMV will remain in effect until the NPDES permit expires under IC 13-14-8-9.