

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE NO: 20251212 – INP000680– D
DATE OF NOTICE: December 12, 2025
DATE RESPONSE DUE: January 12, 2026

The Office of Water Quality proposes the following DRAFT IWP PERMIT:

MINOR – MODIFICATION:

Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant fka Pretzels, Inc., Permit No. INP000680, WELLS COUNTY, 123 W Harvest Road, Bluffton, IN. IDEM has been notified that there was a transfer of ownership on November 15, 2024. Permit Manager: Brodyn Ruiz, 317/234-6534, brruiz@idem.in.gov. Posted online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notice/>.

PROCEDURES TO FILE A RESPONSE

You are hereby notified of the availability of a 30-day public comment period regarding the referenced draft permit, in accordance with 327 IAC 5-21-11. The application and draft permit documents are available for inspection at IDEM, Office of Water Quality, Indiana Government Center North, 100 N. Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, (copies 10¢ per page). The Draft Permit is posted online on the above-referenced IDEM public notice web page. A courtesy copy has also been sent via email to the local County Health Department. Please tell others whom you think would be interested in this matter. For more information about public participation including your rights & responsibilities, please see <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notice/>. You may want to consult our online Citizens' Guide to IDEM: <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>.

Comments: The proposed decision to issue a permit is tentative. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the draft permit. All comments must be delivered to IDEM or postmarked no later than the Response Due Date noted to be considered in the decision to issue a final permit. Deliver or mail all requests or comments to the attention of the Permit Manager at the above address.

To Request a Public Hearing: Any person may request a public hearing. A written request must be submitted to the above address on or before the Response Due Date. The written request shall include: the name and address 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. The Department will determine whether to hold a public hearing based upon the comments and the rationale for the request. Public Notice of such a hearing will be posted on IDEM's web page for public notices and notifications will also be sent to those persons submitting comments and/or on the mailing list at least 30 days prior to the hearing.



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • Fax (317) 233-6647 • www.idem.in.gov

Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

December 12, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Walt Watters, Director of Operations
Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant
123 Harvest Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Dear Walt Watters:

Re: IWP Permit No. INP000680
Draft Permit Modification – Transfer of Ownership
Previous Name: Pretzels, Inc.
Current Name: Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton
Bluffton, IN – Wells County

The request to transfer ownership of Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment (IWP) Permit INP000680 from Pretzels, Inc. to Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant has been reviewed and processed in accordance with rules adopted under 327 IAC 5. Enclosed is a copy of the draft permit modification which reflects the transfer of ownership.

Pursuant to IC 13-15-5-1, IDEM will publish the draft permit document online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notices/>. Additional information on public participation can be found in the "Citizens' Guide to IDEM", available at <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>. A 30-day comment period is available to solicit input from interested parties, including the public.

Please review this draft permit modification and associated documents carefully to become familiar with the proposed terms and conditions. Comments concerning the draft permit modification should be submitted in accordance with the procedure outlined in the enclosed public notice form. We suggest that you meet with us to discuss major concerns or objections you may have with the draft permit modification.

Questions concerning this draft permit modification may be addressed to Brodyn Ruiz of my staff, at (317) 234-6534 or BrRuiz@idem.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard Hamblin, Chief
Industrial NPDES Permits Section
Office of Water Quality

Enclosures

cc: Wells County Health Department
Jeremy Waite, IDEM Inspector
Ann-Margaret Deavers, EHS Manager



Tony Fey, City of Bluffton POTW

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
AMENDED AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT (IWP) PERMIT

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-21 and IDEM's permitting authority under IC 13-15, **Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant** (hereinafter referred to as the permittee) is authorized to discharge, from the facility located at 123 W. Harvest Road, Bluffton, Indiana into the **City of Bluffton Publicly Owned Treatment Works** (POTW), in accordance with the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Parts I and II hereof.

The permit, as issued on March 14, 2023, is hereby amended, as contained herein. The amended provisions shall become effective _____. All terms and conditions of the permit not modified at this time remain in effect. Further, any existing condition or term affected by the amendments will remain in effect until the amended provisions become effective. This permit and the authorization to discharge, as amended, shall expire at midnight on March 31, 2028.

NOTE: In order to receive authorization to discharge beyond the date of expiration, the permittee must submit a renewal IWP permit application to the Industrial NPDES Permit Section in the Office of Water Quality, no later than one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the date this permit expires. Failure to do so will result in expiration of the authorization to discharge.

Signed on _____ for the Indiana Department of
Environmental Management.

Jerry Dittmer, Chief
Permits Branch
Office of Water Quality



Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment (IWP)

Briefing Memo for
Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant
Draft modification: December 2025
Final modification: TBD

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-8603
Toll Free (800) 451-6027
www.idem.IN.gov

Permittee:	Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant 123 W. Harvest Rd. Bluffton, IN, 46714
Existing Permit Information:	Permit Number: INP000680 Expiration Date: March 31, 2028
Facility Contact:	Scott Campbell, HSE Manager SCampbell2@hersheys.com
Facility Location:	123 W. Harvest Rd. Bluffton, IN Wells County
Receiving POTW:	City of Bluffton POTW NPDES Permit: IN0022411
Proposed Permit Action:	Modify
Source Category	Industrial Pretreatment
Permit Writer:	Brodyn Ruiz 371-234-6534 BrRuiz@idem.in.gov

Table of Contents

.....	1
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 PERMIT MODIFICATION.....	3
2.1 Modification Request	3
2.2 IDEM's Proposed Modification.....	3
2.4 Wastewater Pretreatment	4
3.0 Permit Processing/Public Comment.....	4

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) received a request from Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant on October 17, 2024 to modify Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment (IWP) Permit INP000680. The current five year permit was issued with an effective date of April 1, 2023 in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-6(a).

In accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 124.7 and 124.56, as well as Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 327 Article 5, development of a Statement of Basis, or Briefing Memo, is required for NPDES permits. This document fulfills the requirements established in those regulations.

This Briefing Memo identifies the basis for this modification to the permit and the modified pages of the permit issued on March 14, 2023.

2.0 PERMIT MODIFICATION

2.1 Modification Request

The facility was previously owned and operated by Pretzels Inc. and has changed ownership to Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant. The previous owner, Pretzels Inc. was under an Agreed Order Case No. 2022-29123-W due to effluent violations. As a term of the Agreed Order, the facility developed a compliance plan. Part of the compliance plan was to install a dissolved air flotation (DAF) to prevent future violations of the wastewater permit's effluent limitations.

2.2 IDEM's Proposed Modification

This modification establishes Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant as the current owners of the facility. IDEM has approved the modification requested by Hershey Salty Snacks – Bluffton Plant to install a dissolved air flotation (DAF) in wastewater treatment. The installation of the DAF system as part of the facility's compliance plan will help prevent future violations of the wastewater permit's effluent limitations.

The permittee shall have the wastewater treatment facilities under the responsible charge of an operator certified by the Commissioner in a classification corresponding to the classification of the wastewater treatment plant as required by IC 13-18-11-11 and 327 IAC 5-23-6. Based on the installation of the DAF system, the facility is required to have a Class B Operator.

2.4 Wastewater Pretreatment

Generated wastewater flows from the processing line to a 15,885 gallon equalization tank. The wastewater is aerated by two blowers through an aeration grid at the bottom of the equalization tank before further treatment. Water is pumped from the equalization tank into a 4,500 gallon Moving Bed Biofilm Reactor (MBBR) tank. Urea and phosphorous are mixed with the incoming wastewater before entering the MBBR tank. In the MBBR tank, AF-201 (anti-foaming agent), city water, and compressed air are added, and two blowers aerate the contents of the tank through an aeration grid at the bottom of the tank.

Water is pumped from the MBBR tank into the flocculator before entering the DAF. The maximum flow rate of the designed system is 11 gallons per minute (GPM). In the flocculator, phosphoric acid, sodium hydroxide, and Aqua Hawk 1121 (flocculating agent) are added. Aqua Hawk 1010P (Polymer) is added downstream of the other chemical additives. Water then flows into the DAF system where floatable solids are separated from the water, and the generated sludge is skimmed into a sludge hopper before discharging to a sludge holding tank. Final DAF effluent is either discharged to a 210-gallon effluent buffer tank or is recycled to before the DAF system to mix with incoming DAF feed. An in-line flow and pH meter read the final effluent before discharging to the sanitary sewer.

3.0 Permit Processing/Public Comment

Pursuant to IC 13-15-5-1, IDEM will publish the draft permit document online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notices/>. Additional information on public participation can be found in the "Citizens' Guide to IDEM", available at <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>. A 30-day comment period is available to solicit input from interested parties, including the public.