

**STATE OF INDIANA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE NO: 20260226– IN0042498– D**  
**DATE OF NOTICE: February 26, 2026**  
**DATE RESPONSE DUE: March 30, 2026**

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

**MINOR – MODIFICATION:**

**Valparaiso Department of Water Works – Flint Lake Plant** , Permit No. IN0042498, PORTER COUNTY, 2101 Wesley Road, Valparaiso, IN. The facility distributes water for sale for domestic, commercial and industrial uses: IDEM proposes to modify the permit to remove the monitoring requirements for Total Iron. Kira Wren, 317/233-7090, [Kwren@idem.in.gov](mailto:Kwren@idem.in.gov). Posted online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notices/>.

**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 5-3-9. The application and draft permit documents are available for inspection at IDEM, Office of Water Quality, Indiana Government Center North - Room 1255, 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-notices/>. 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 site and will be transmitted 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](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

**Mike Braun**  
Governor

**Clint Woods**  
Commissioner

February 26, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Shihua Chen, Utilities Operations/Maintenance Director  
Valparaiso Department of Water Works  
205 Billings Street  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Dear Mr. Chen:

Re: NPDES Permit No. IN0042498  
Draft Permit Modification  
Valparaiso Department of Water Works –  
Flint Lake Plant  
Valparaiso, IN, Porter County

Your request for a permit modification has been reviewed and processed in accordance with rules adopted under 327 IAC 5. Enclosed is a copy of the draft permit modification.

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 Kira Wren of my staff, at (317) 233-7090 or [KWren@idem.IN.gov](mailto:KWren@idem.IN.gov).

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

cc: Porter County Health Department  
Miya Spratt, IDEM inspector



STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
AMENDED AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE  
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., the "Clean Water Act" or "CWA"), and IDEM's permitting authority under IC 13-15,

VALPARAISO DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS – FLINT LAKE PLANT

is authorized to discharge from a water treatment plant located at 2101 Wesley Road, Valparaiso, Indiana to receiving waters named Flint Lake in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Parts I and II hereof.

The permit, as issued on May 28, 2024, 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 may be revoked for the nonpayment of applicable fees in accordance with IC 13-18-20.

This permit and the authorization to discharge, as amended, shall expire at midnight July 30, 2029. In order to receive authorization to discharge beyond the date of expiration, the permittee shall submit such information and forms as are required by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management no later than 180 days prior to the date of expiration.

Issued on \_\_\_\_\_ for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Jerry Dittmer, Chief  
Permits Branch  
Office of Water Quality

PART I

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- The permittee is authorized to discharge from the outfall listed below in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit. The permittee is authorized to discharge from Outfall 001, located at Latitude 41° 30' 37.2", Longitude -87° 02' 16.7". The discharge is limited to filter backwash. Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements below shall be taken at a point representative of the discharge but prior to entry into Flint Lake. Such discharge shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS [1][2]

Outfall 001

Table 1

Parameter	Quantity or Loading			Quality or Concentration			Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow	Report	Report	MGD	----	----	----	1 X Monthly	24 Hr. Total
TSS	-----	-----	-----	20	40	mg/l	1 X Monthly	Grab
TRC [3][4]	-----	-----	-----	0.02	0.04	mg/l	1 X Monthly	Grab

Table 2

Parameter	Quality or Concentration				Monitoring Requirements	
	Daily Minimum	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
pH [5]	6.0	----	9.0	s.u.	1 X Monthly	Grab

[1] See Part I.B. of the permit for the minimum narrative limitations.

[2] In the event that a new water treatment additive is to be used that will contribute to this Outfall, or changes are to be made in the use of water treatment additives, including dosage, the permittee must apply for and receive approval from IDEM prior to such discharge. Discharges of any such additives must meet Indiana water quality standards. The permittee must apply for permission to use water treatment additives by completing and submitting State Form 50000 (Application for Approval to Use Water Treatment Additives) currently available at: <https://www.in.gov/idem/forms/idem-agency-forms/>.

- [3] The water quality-based effluent limit (WQBEL) for Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) is less than the limit of quantitation (LOQ) as specified in footnote [4]. Compliance with this permit will be demonstrated if the effluent concentrations measured are less than the LOQ.

If the measured concentration of TRC is greater than the water quality-based effluent limitations and above the respective LOD specified in footnote [4] in any three (3) consecutive analyses, or any five (5) out of nine (9) analyses, then the discharger shall:

- (1) Determine the source of the parameter through an evaluation of sampling techniques, analytical/laboratory procedures, and waste streams (including internal waste streams); and re-examine the chlorination /dechlorination procedures.
  - (2) The sampling and analysis for TRC shall be increased to 2 X Monthly and remain at this increased sampling frequency until:
    - (a) The increased sampling frequency for TRC has been in place for at least nine weeks;
    - (b) At least nine (9) samples have been taken under this increased sampling frequency; and
    - (c) The measured concentration of TRC is less than the LOD specified in footnote [4] in at least seven (7) out of the nine (9) most recent analyses.
- [4] The following EPA approved test methods and associated LODs and LOQs are to be used in the analysis of the effluent samples. Alternative methods may be used if first approved by IDEM and EPA, if applicable.

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Test Method</u>	<u>LOD</u>	<u>LOQ</u>
Chlorine, Total residual	4500-Cl D-2000, E-2000 or G-2000	0.02 mg/l	0.06 mg/l

#### Case-Specific LOD/LOQ

The permittee may determine and use a case-specific LOD or LOQ using the analytical method specified above, or any other analytical method which is approved by the Commissioner, and EPA if applicable, prior to use. The LOD shall be derived by the procedure specified for method detection limits contained in 40 CFR Part 136, Appendix B, and the LOQ shall be set equal to 3.18 times the LOD. Other methods may be used if first approved by the Commissioner.

- [5] If the permittee collects more than one grab sample on a given day for pH, the values shall not be averaged for reporting daily maximums or daily minimums. The permittee must report the individual minimum and the individual maximum pH value of any sample during the month on the Monthly Monitoring Report form.



**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
Briefing Memo for  
Valparaiso Department of Water Works – Flint Lake Plant  
Draft: February 2026**

**Indiana Department of Environmental Management**  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
(317) 232-8603  
Toll Free (800) 451-6027  
[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

<b>Permittee:</b>	Valparaiso Department of Water Works – Flint Lake Plant 205 Billings Street Valparaiso, IN 46383
<b>Permit Information:</b>	Permit Number: IN0042498 Expiration Date: June 30, 2029
<b>Facility Contact:</b>	Shihua Chen, Utilities Operations/Maintenance Director (219) 462-6174; <a href="mailto:schen@valpo.us">schen@valpo.us</a>
<b>Facility Location:</b>	2101 Wesley Road Valparaiso, IN 46383 Porter County
<b>Receiving Stream:</b>	Flint Lake
<b>GLI/Non-GLI:</b>	Non-GLI
<b>Proposed Permit Action:</b>	Modification
<b>Date Application Received:</b>	December 9, 2025
<b>Source Category</b>	NPDES Minor – Industrial (Public Water Supply)
<b>Permit Writer:</b>	Kira Wren (317) 233-7090 <a href="mailto:Kwren@idem.in.gov">Kwren@idem.in.gov</a>

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (more commonly known as the Clean Water Act), as amended, (Title 33 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1251 *et seq.*), requires an NPDES permit for the discharge of pollutants into surface waters. Furthermore, Indiana law requires a permit to control or limit the discharge of any contaminants into state waters or into a publicly owned treatment works. This proposed permit action by IDEM complies with and implements these federal and state requirements.

In accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 124.7, as well as Title 327 of the Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) 327 Article 5-3-7, a Statement of Basis, or Briefing Memo, is required for certain NPDES permits. This document fulfills the requirements established in these regulations. This Briefing Memo was prepared in order to document the factors considered in the development of NPDES Permit effluent limitations. The technical basis for the Briefing Memo may consist of evaluations of promulgated effluent guidelines, existing effluent quality, receiving water conditions, Indiana water quality standards-based wasteload allocations, and other information available to IDEM. Decisions to award variances to Water Quality Standards or promulgated effluent guidelines are justified in the Briefing Memo where necessary. This Briefing Memo also identifies the modified pages of the permit as issued on May 28, 2024.

## 2.0 FACILITY DESCRIPTION

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### 2.1 General

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management received a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit modification application from Valparaiso City Utilities on December 9, 2025. The current five year permit was issued with an effective date of July 1, 2024 in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-6(a). A five year permit is proposed in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-6(a).

Valparaiso Department of Water Works- Flint Lake Plant is classified under Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code 4941 – Water Supply. The facility distributes water for sale for domestic, commercial, and industrial use.

A map showing the location of the facility has been included as Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Facility Location**



2101 Wesley Road  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
Porter County

**2.2 Outfall Location**

	Latitude: 41° 30' 37.2"
OUTFALL 001	Longitude: -87° 02' 16.7"

## **3.0 PERMIT MODIFICATION**

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### **3.1 Modification Request**

On December 9, 2025, the facility submitted a modification request for removal of Total Iron monitoring requirements from the permit. Prior to submittal of the modification, on November 19, 2025, the facility submitted total iron sampling data indicating that iron concentrations are well below the applicable water quality based effluent limitation standards.

### **3.2 IDEM's Proposed Modification**

IDEM approves the removal of Total Iron from the facility's permit monitoring requirements. Based on a review of the historical data, iron samples collected by the permittee are an order of magnitude less than the applicable water quality based effluent limitations. Therefore, IDEM agrees to remove the monitoring requirements for iron in this permit.

### **3.3 Antibacksliding**

Pursuant to 327 IAC 5-2-10(a)(11), unless an exception applies, a permit may not be renewed, reissued or modified to contain effluent limitations that are less stringent than the comparable effluent limitations in the previous permit. None of the limits calculated as part of this permit renewal are less stringent than the comparable effluent limitations in the previous permit, therefore, backsliding is not an issue in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-10(a)(11) and 40 CFR 122.44(l)(1).

### **3.4 Antidegradation**

Indiana's Antidegradation Standards and Implementation procedures are outlined in 327 IAC 2-1.3. The antidegradation standards established by 327 IAC 2-1.3-3 apply to all surface waters of the state. The permittee is prohibited from undertaking any deliberate action that would result in a new or increased discharge of a bioaccumulative chemical of concern (BCC) or a new or increased permit limit for a regulated pollutant that is not a BCC unless information is submitted to the commissioner demonstrating that the proposed new or increased discharge will not cause a significant lowering of water quality, or an antidegradation demonstration submitted and approved in accordance 327 IAC 2-1.3-5 and 2-1.3-6.

The NPDES permit does not propose to establish a new or increased loading of a regulated pollutant; therefore, the Antidegradation Implementation Procedures in 327 IAC 2-1.3-5 and 2-1.3-6 do not apply to the permitted discharge.

### **3.5 Spill Response and Reporting Requirement**

Reporting requirements associated with the Spill Reporting, Containment, and Response requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1 are included in Part II.B.2.(d), Part II.B.3.(c), and Part II.C.3. of the NPDES permit. Spills from the permitted facility meeting the definition of a spill under 327 IAC 2-6.1-4(15), the applicability requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1-1, and the Reportable Spills requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1-5 (other than those meeting an exclusion under 327 IAC 2-6.1-3 or the criteria outlined below) are subject to the Reporting Responsibilities of 327 IAC 2-6.1-7.

It should be noted that the reporting requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1 do not apply to those discharges or exceedances that are under the jurisdiction of an applicable permit when the substance in question is covered by the permit and death or acute injury or illness to animals or humans does not occur. In order for a discharge or exceedance to be under the jurisdiction of this NPDES permit, the substance in question (a) must have been discharged in the normal course of operation from an outfall listed in this permit, and (b) must have been discharged from an outfall for which the permittee has authorization to discharge that substance.

### **3.6 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.