

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE NO 20260515 – IN0030848– D
DATE OF NOTICE: May 15, 2026
DATE RESPONSE DUE: June 15, 2026

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

Minor Modification:

Virgil Grissom Middle School WWTP, Permit IN0030848, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, 13881 Kern Road, Mishawaka, IN. This minor semipublic wastewater treatment plant has an average design flow of 0.036 million gallons daily of treated sanitary wastewater into an open ditch to Rogers Ditch to the St. Joseph River via Outfall 001. Outfall 001 is located at Latitude: 41° 36' 29" N, Longitude: 86° 08' 19" W. Solids at the facility are hauled offsite. IDEM has approved the permittee's request for a permit modification to remove ozone disinfection from the facility and reinstate total residual chlorine disinfection. The facility was originally constructed with chlorination/dechlorination capabilities; therefore, a construction permit is not required for this modification at this time. Permit Manager: Sierra Ehlinger at 463-261-6979 or sehlinge@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 IC 13-15-5-1. 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 for public notices and

notification will also be sent out 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

May 15, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Heather Short, Superintendent
Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation
55900 Bittersweet Road
Mishawaka, Indiana 46545

Dear Dr. Short:

Re: Draft Modification of NPDES Permit
No. IN0030848 for the Virgil Grissom Middle School
Wastewater Treatment Plant
St. Joseph County

Your request for permit modification, submitted March 23, 2026, has been reviewed and processed in accordance with rules adopted under 327 IAC 5. Enclosed is the draft modification of NPDES Permit No. IN0030848 which applies to the discharge from the Virgil Grissom Middle School Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The enclosed Pages 1 through 3b, and 9 of 28 are intended to replace the corresponding pages in the facility's current permit.

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 in order to solicit input from interested parties, including the general public.

Please review this document carefully and become familiar with the proposed terms and conditions. Comments concerning the draft permit should be submitted in accordance with the procedure outlined in the enclosed public notice form. If you have any questions concerning this modification, please contact Sierra Ehlinger at 463-261-6979 or sehlinge@idem.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Leigh Voss, Chief
Municipal NPDES Permits Section
Office of Water Quality

Enclosures

cc: Joseph Hughes, Certified Operator
Dan Fox, Astbury Group- General Manager

Visit on.IN.gov/survey or scan the QR code to provide feedback.

We appreciate your input!



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 authority under IC 13-5, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is issuing this permit to the

PENN-HARRIS-MADISON SCHOOL CORPORATION

hereinafter referred to as "the permittee." The permittee owns and/or operates the **Virgil Grissom Middle School Wastewater Treatment Plant**, a minor semi-public wastewater treatment plant located at 13881 Kern Road, Mishawaka City, Indiana, Saint Joseph County. The permittee is hereby authorized to discharge from the outfalls identified in Part I of this permit to receiving waters named Rogers Ditch, located within the Lake Michigan drainage basin, in accordance with the effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in the permit. This permit may be revoked for the nonpayment of applicable fees in accordance with IC 13-18-20.

The permit, as issued on September 18, 2025 is hereby amended as contained herein. The amended provisions shall become effective on _____. All terms and conditions of the permit not modified at this time remain in effect. Further, any existing condition or term affected by the modifications will remain in effect until the modified provisions become effective.

This permit and authorization to discharge, as amended, shall expire at midnight, October 31, 2030. 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.

Leigh Voss, Chief
Municipal NPDES Permits Section
Office of Water Quality

TREATMENT FACILITY DESCRIPTION

The permittee currently operates a Class I, 0.036 MGD extended aeration treatment facility consisting of a wet well, a comminutor, a bar screen, an aeration tank, a secondary clarifier, chlorination/dechlorination disinfection facilities, and effluent flow measurement via a v-notch weir. Final sludge is hauled off-site.

The collection system is comprised of 100% separate sanitary sewers by design with no overflow or bypass points.

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 shall take samples and measurements at a location representative of each discharge to determine whether the effluent limitations have been met. Refer to Part I.B of this permit for additional monitoring and reporting requirements.

1. Beginning on the effective date of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge from Outfall 001, which is located at Latitude: 41° 36' 27" N, Longitude: 86° 08' 15" W. The discharge is subject to the following requirements:

TABLE 1

Parameter	Quantity or Loading			Quality or Concentration			Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Units	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow [1]	Report	----	MGD	----	----	----	5 X Weekly	24-Hr. Total
CBOD ₅								
Summer [2]	4.5	6.9	lbs/day	15	23	mg/l	1 X Weekly	Grab
Winter [3]	7.5	12.0	lbs/day	25	40	mg/l	1 X Weekly	Grab
TSS								
Summer [2]	5.4	8.1	lbs/day	18	27	mg/l	1 X Weekly	Grab
Winter [3]	9.0	13.5	lbs/day	30	45	mg/l	1 X Weekly	Grab

TABLE 2

Parameter	Quality or Concentration				Monitoring Requirements	
	Daily Minimum	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
pH [4]	6.0	----	9.0	s.u.	2 X Weekly	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen [5]						
Summer [2]	6.0	----	----	mg/l	2 X Weekly	2 Grabs/24-Hrs.
Winter [3]	5.0	----	----	mg/l	2 X Weekly	2 Grabs/24-Hrs.
Total Residual Chlorine [6]						
Contact Tank [7]	0.5	----	Report	mg/l	2 X Weekly	Grab
<i>E.coli</i> [9]	----	125 [10]	235 [11]	cfu/100 ml	1 X Weekly	Grab

TABLE 3

Parameter	Quantity or Loading			Quality or Concentration			Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Units	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Ammonia-nitrogen								
Summer [2]	0.38	0.88	lbs/day	1.26	2.93	mg/l	1 X Weekly	Grab
Winter [3]	0.40	0.93	lbs/day	1.33	3.10	mg/l	1 X Weekly	Grab.
Total Residual Chlorine [6]								
Final [8]	0.003	0.006	lbs/day	0.01	0.02	mg/l	2 X Weekly	Grab

- [1] Effluent flow measurement is required per 327 IAC 5-2-13. The flow meter(s) shall be calibrated at least once every twelve months.
- [2] Summer limitations apply from May 1 through November 30 of each year.
- [3] Winter limitations apply from December 1 through April 30 of each year.
- [4] 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 Report of Operation forms.
- [5] The daily minimum concentration of dissolved oxygen in the effluent shall be reported as the arithmetic mean determined by summation of the two (2) daily grab sample results divided by the number of daily grab samples. These samples are to be collected over equal time intervals.
- [6] The effluent shall be disinfected on a continuous basis such that violations of the

applicable bacteriological limitations (*E. coli*) do not occur from April 1 through October 31, annually. If the permittee uses chlorine for any reason, at any time including the period from November 1 through March 31, then the limits and monitoring requirements in Table 2 and 3 for Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) shall be in effect whenever chlorine is used.

- [7] The chlorine residual shall be maintained at a concentration not less than 0.5 mg/l as measured at the effluent end of the chlorine contact tank for the term of the permit. The daily maximum chlorine residual value at the chlorine contact tank shall also be reported.
- [8] The monthly average Water Quality-Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL) for total residual chlorine is less than the Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) as specified below. Compliance with the total residual chlorine concentration limitations will be demonstrated if the monthly average effluent level is less than or equal to the monthly average WQBEL. For the purpose of calculating the monthly average value, the daily effluent values that are less than the LOQ may be assigned a value of zero (0), unless, after considering the number of monitoring results that are greater than the Limit of Detection (LOD), and applying appropriate statistical techniques, a value other than zero (0) is warranted.

The daily maximum WQBEL for total residual chlorine is greater than or equal to the LOD value, but less than the LOQ value specified in the permit. Compliance with this effluent limitation will be demonstrated if the measured daily effluent concentrations are less than the LOQ. For daily maximum mass limitations based on WQBELs which are less than the LOQ value, compliance with the daily maximum mass value is based on the LOQ value. Compliance with the daily maximum mass value will be demonstrated if the calculated mass value is less than **0.018 lbs/day**.

At present, two methods are acceptable to IDEM measure total residual chlorine: amperometric and DPD colorimetric methods.

Parameter	LOD	LOQ
Chlorine	0.02 mg/l	0.06 mg/l

Case-Specific MDL

The permittee may determine a case-specific Method Detection Level (MDL) using the analytical method specified above. The MDL shall be derived by the procedure specified for MDLs contained in 40 CFR Part 136, Appendix B, and the limit of quantitation shall be set equal to 3.18 times the MDL. Other methods may be used if first approved by the U.S. EPA and IDEM.

- [9] The *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) limitations apply from April 1 through October 31 annually.

- [10] The monthly average *E. coli* value shall be calculated as a geometric mean. Per 327 IAC 5-10-6, the concentration of *E. coli* shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) cfu or mpn per 100 milliliters as a geometric mean of the effluent samples taken in a calendar month. No samples may be excluded when calculating the monthly geometric mean.
- [11] If less than ten samples are taken and analyzed for *E. coli* in a calendar month, no samples may exceed two hundred thirty-five (235) cfu or mpn as a daily maximum. However, when ten (10) or more samples are taken and analyzed for *E. coli* in a calendar month, not more than ten percent (10%) of those samples may exceed two hundred thirty-five (235) cfu or mpn as a daily maximum. When calculating ten percent, the result must not be rounded up. In reporting for compliance purposes on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form, the permittee shall record the highest non-excluded value for the daily maximum.

3. This permit may be modified, or, alternately, revoked and reissued, to comply with any applicable effluent limitation or standard issued or approved under section 301(b)(2)(C), (D) and (E), 304(b)(2), and 307(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act, if the effluent limitation or standard so issued or approved:
 - a. contains different conditions or is otherwise more stringent than any effluent limitation in the permit; or
 - b. controls any pollutant not limited in the permit.
4. This permit may be modified, or alternately, revoked and reissued, after public notice and opportunity for hearing, to include a case-specific Method Detection Level (MDL). The permittee must demonstrate that such action is warranted in accordance with the procedure specified under Appendix B, 40 CFR Part 136, or approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
Briefing Memo for the
Virgil Grissom Middle School
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Draft: April 2026
Final: TBD

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
 100 North Senate Avenue
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
 (317) 232-8603
 Toll Free (800) 451-6027

Permittee:	Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation Dr. Heather Short, Superintendent 55900 Bittersweet Road Mishawaka, Indiana 45645 superintendent@phm.k12.in.us and 574-258-9595
Existing Permit Information:	Permit Number: IN0030848 Expiration Date: October 31, 2030
Facility Contact:	Joseph Hughes, Certified Operator Jhughes@astburygroup.com , 574-527-2338
Facility Location:	13881 Kern Road Mishawaka, Indiana Saint Joseph County
Receiving Stream:	Rogers Ditch to Saint Joseph River
GLI/Non-GLI:	GLI
Proposed Permit Action:	Modification
Date Application Received:	March 23, 2026
Facility Category:	NPDES Minor Semi-Public
Permit Writer:	Sierra Ehlinger, Senior Environmental Manager sehlinge@idem.IN.gov, 463-261-6979

Outfall Location

Latitude: 41° 36' 27" N

Longitude: 86° 08' 15" W

Background

This is the modification of the NPDES permit for the Virgil Grissom Middle School Wastewater Treatment Plant. The facility's current permit was effective on November 1, 2025 and has an expiration date of October 31, 2030. A request for permit modification was received from the permittee on March 23, 2026. The permittee requests a permit modification to remove ozone disinfection from the facility and reinstate total residual chlorine disinfection. The facility was originally constructed with chlorination/dechlorination capabilities and therefore does not require a construction permit to make this change at this time.

Modification

The following changes have been made for the modification of the NPDES permit:

- Page 1 of 28 This page has been modified to reflect the modification effective date for the permit.

- Page 2 of 28 This page has been modified to reflect the updated facility description which includes the chlorination/dechlorination equipment.

- Page 3 of 28 This page has been modified to update Table 2 and Table 3 to include Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) limitations. In addition, this page has been modified to update the footnote numbering in Table 2 and Table 3 and to update the requirements in Footnote [6].

- Pages 3a and 3b These pages have been modified to include footnotes [7], [8], and [9] and to update the footnote numbering in the permit.

- Page 9 of 28 This page has been modified to include a fourth reopening clause for case-specific Method Detection Level (MDL).

Expiration Date

The expiration date of the permit has not changed. The permit, as modified, will expire at midnight on October 31, 2030.

Permit Processing/Public Comment

Pursuant to IC 13-15-5-1, IDEM will publish the draft permit modification document online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notice/>. 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.