

FACT SHEET

Preliminary Determination of Hazardous Waste License Reissuance

Siemens Energy, Inc. (Siemens)
301 West Military Road
Rothschild, Wisconsin 54474
License #3102 (Container Storage)
EPA ID #: WID044393114

July 14, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Siemens operates a facility that is located adjacent to the Wisconsin River on approximately 27 acres of property in Rothschild, Wisconsin. The property is situated just south of Zimpro Park on Military Road and west of U.S. Highway 51.

Siemens engages in the development, design, construction and sale of waste and wastewater treatment systems. On-site facilities include a pilot plant, research laboratories and a fully equipped analytical laboratory. Bench and pilot scale treatability studies are conducted to obtain design data and demonstrate treatment processes to potential clients. Treatment studies and analytical work are conducted on hazardous as well as nonhazardous wastes.

HAZARDOUS WASTE LICENSING

Siemens (formerly US Filter/Zimpro) filed a notice of hazardous waste activity on November 11, 1980, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A Part A hazardous waste permit application was filed with the U.S. EPA on September 30, 1981. An interim license was issued to US Filter/Zimpro on January 31, 1983. The initial hazardous waste operating license for a hazardous waste container and tank storage facility was issued on January 31, 1986. The most recent license reissuance approval was issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (department) to US Filter/Zimpro on November 28, 2006, for hazardous waste storage and treatment. The facility became Siemens Water Technologies Corporation in 2008 and Siemens Energy, Inc. in 2012.

Siemens has recently submitted a Feasibility and Plan of Operation Report (FPOR), dated April 22, 2021, as part of their application for reissuance their operating license for a hazardous waste storage facility. The FPOR describes in detail the design and operational characteristics and strategies that Siemens deploys to achieve compliance with the facility requirements of ch. NR 664, Wis. Adm. Code.

As noted above, Siemens previously held both a hazardous waste treatment and storage license. As Siemens no longer performs and does not intend to continue licensed hazardous waste treatment, the renewal application is only for the storage license. Siemens will limit all future hazardous waste treatment to license-exempt treatability studies and wastewater treatment unit activities.

HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE

Licensed storage of hazardous waste occurs in containers within two units: the hazardous waste storage warehouse and the pilot plant building. Storage in the pilot plant building is limited to the quantity and time needed for treatment feasibility studies occurring in the pilot plant. Storage of hazardous waste in the two licensed areas will not exceed 20,112 gallons. Storage of hazardous waste in tanks is not proposed.

Siemens also stores and processes non-hazardous solid wastes under the terms of its FPOR. Storage and treatment of non-hazardous solid waste will be performed and controlled in the same manner as hazardous waste treatment and storage in order to achieve an equivalent level of environmental protection. Siemens will not store more than a combined total of 22,400 gallons of hazardous waste and non-hazardous solid waste.

Much of the Siemens property is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Wisconsin River. The FPOR's Flood Plan (see FPOR, Appendix L) establishes that all hazardous waste, non-hazardous solid waste and other hazardous materials will be relocated to the licensed Hazardous Waste Storage Warehouse prior to flooding. The floor of the Warehouse is about 1-1/2 feet above the published 100-year flood elevation. The limit of 22,400 gallons of stored hazardous waste and non-hazardous solid waste is intended, in part, to ensure that sufficient capacity in the licensed Hazardous Waste Storage Warehouse is available during flood conditions.

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION

The licensing process for hazardous waste facilities is established in ch. 289, Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 670, Wis. Adm. Code. The department has found Siemens' license application to be complete, and has preliminarily determined that:

- there is a need for the facility;
- an environmental impact statement is not required; and
- that the FPOR should be conditionally approved.

The department has developed a preliminary determination dated July 14, 2021 that includes approval conditions needed to provide compliance with chs. NR 660 through NR 670, Wis. Adm. Code and to protect human health and the environment.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

A copy of the administrative record consisting of the FPOR, the department's preliminary determination, and a fact sheet are available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Natural Resources
Wausau Service Center
5301 Rib Mountain Dr.
Wausau, WI 54401

Marathon County Public Library (Wausau Headquarters Branch)
300 North First Street
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403-5405

Marathon County Public Library (Rothschild Branch)
211 Grand Avenue
Rothschild, Wisconsin 54474

OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

To allow for public review and comment after the receipt of a complete and technically adequate FPOR, the department is issuing a public notice of its preliminary determination:

- in the Wisconsin State Journal on or about July 19, 2021
- in the Wausau Daily Herald on or about July 19, 2021
- on the department’s website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/Comment.html>, under the tab named “Hazardous Waste”.
- through radio ads on Wausau-area radio stations 107.9 WBCV and 103.3 WGLX, from July 19 through July 23, 2021.

This notice includes information required by s. NR 670.410(4), Wis. Adm. Code. Pursuant to ch. 289 and s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., the public is invited to submit written comments concerning the preliminary determination to the department during the 45-day public comment period beginning on July 19, 2021 and ending on September 2, 2021. All comments and/or requests concerning the above documents can be sent to: Douglas Coenen – WA/5, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street, Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921. Members of the public can also contact Mr. Coenen to be placed on the department’s mailing list for interested parties for this facility.

After the close of the public comment period and before issuing a final determination, the department will evaluate all comments received. Each person who submitted written comments or requested notice of a decision will receive a notice of the determination by the department. At the same time, the department will also respond to all significant comments, specify if there are any changes and indicate whether additional comments or new materials have been included in the administrative record. The department will then proceed to re-issue the operating license for a maximum term of ten (10) years.

OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A HEARING

Pursuant to ss. 289.26 and 1.11, Stats., a public hearing concerning the FPOR and the preliminary determinations may be requested in writing by any county, village, city or town, the applicant, or any 6 or more persons. The request shall indicate the interests of the municipality or persons who file the request and state the reasons why the hearing was requested. The hearing shall be conducted as an informational hearing utilizing the procedures in s. NR 2.135, Wis. Adm. Code unless the request filed indicates pursuant to section 289.27(1), Wis. Stats., that the hearing is to be treated as a contested case, as provided under section 227.42, Wis. Stats., and that:

1. A substantial interest of the person requesting the treatment of the hearing as contested case is injured in fact or threatened with injury by the department's action or inaction on the matter;

2. The injury to the person requesting the treatment of the hearing as a contested case is different in kind or degree from injury to the general public caused by the department's action or inaction on the matter; and
3. There is a dispute of material fact.

All hearing requests shall be filed with the department within 30 days after the publication date of this notice, either by delivery to the Office of the Secretary of the Department at 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53703 or by mailing to the Secretary, Department of Natural Resources by certified mail at the following address: P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

WHO TO CONTACT

To request additional information, please contact the department's representative:

Douglas W. Coenen, Waste Management Engineer
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