

**Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Certification of
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency NPDES Permit MN-0025887-7**

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, as amended, the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (the “Band”) is authorized by the US Environmental Protection Agency (“US EPA”), Region 5, to discharge from a treatment facility operated by the Grand Portage Water and Sewer Department, located at Grand Portage Reservation, 182 Upper Road, Grand Portage, Minnesota, Cook County, designated as the Grand Portage Wastewater Stabilization Lagoon, to Grand Portage Bay in Lake Superior, in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in the National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit. The new NPDES permit will replace the existing permit, and will expire after five years.

The Band is a federally recognized Indian tribe and has Treatment-in-the-same-Manner-As-a-State (“TAS”) for purposes of enforcement of federal water quality standards on the Band’s Reservation in northern Minnesota. Therefore, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the Grand Portage Water Quality Standards (“Water Quality Standards”) and the Grand Portage Water Resources Ordinance (as amended in 2004, the “Water Resources Ordinance”), the Grand Portage Environmental Resources Board (“Board”) has examined the proposed NPDES permit. The Board has determined that there is reasonable assurance that the discharges authorized under the NPDES permit will not violate the Water Quality Standards. The Band’s Water Quality Standards can be obtained at: [Water Quality Standards Regulations: Grand Portage Band of Minnesota Chippewa | US EPA](#)

The Water Resources Ordinance and Cooperative Agreement can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-regulations-grand-portage-band-minnesota-chippewa-tribe>

Therefore, the Board has determined that no additional conditions are necessary to protect: (a) the public health and welfare of the Band, its members, and others living on the Band’s Reservation; and (b) the present and future use of Reservation Waters for public and private water supplies; propagation of fish, aquatic life, and wildlife; domestic and recreational purposes; and for agricultural, cultural, religious, commercial, industrial, and other legitimate uses. This certification applies only to those activities specifically authorized by NPDES permit MN-0025887-7.

Written comments for the Band’s consideration must be postmarked or emailed by May 23, 2022. Comments can be sent via email to mwatkins@grandportage.com or via post office to: Margaret Watkins, Water Quality Specialist, Grand Portage Environmental Department, P.O. Box 428, Grand Portage, MN 55605. As provided by the Water Resources Ordinance, any interested party may request that a public hearing be scheduled regarding the Board’s decision to grant certification to the NPDES permit. Such a request must be directed to the following address within 30 days of this notice:

Grand Portage Environmental Resources Board
P.O. Box 428
Grand Portage, MN 55605

Questions regarding the NPDES permit can be directed to US EPA, Region 5, mail code: WN-16J, 77 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604-3590. The US EPA, Region 5, contact for this NPDES permit is John Colletti at telephone number (312) 886-6106 or e-mail at colletti.john@epa.gov