

**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION**

NOTICE OF TENTATIVE DETERMINATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Wicomico County

Application for State Discharge Permit 21DP0359, NPDES Permit Application MD0000060:

Perdue AgriBusiness LLC, located at 6906 Zion Church Road, Salisbury, MD 21804, applied for a renewal permit to discharge an average of 175,000 gallons per day of treated process water from a producer of commercial poultry products, poultry feed, soybean products, noncontact cooling water and sanitary wastewater, located at 6906 Zion Church Road, Salisbury, MD 21804 to Peggy Branch (Use I waters). The application requested the ability to increase flow to an average of up to 1 million gallons per day (gpd) to surface waters, which would correspond with facility expansion. The average flow under the current permit, including flows formerly directed for spray irrigation, is 205,000 gpd.

The Department is proposing to reissue the permit with the following limitations for Outfall 001, which account for the proposed expansion: **BOD** from Apr 1–Sept 30: 14.2 lbs/day & 10 mg/l (monthly averages) and 28.4 lbs/day & 20 mg/l (daily maximums), and from Oct 1-Mar 31: 42.5 lbs/day & 30 mg/l (monthly averages) and 85 lbs/day & 60 mg/l (daily maximums); **TKN** from Apr 1–Sept 30: 15.6 lbs/day & 11 mg/l (monthly averages) and 31.2 lbs/day & 22 mg/l (daily maximums), and from Oct 1-Mar 31: 46.8 lbs/day & 33 mg/l (monthly averages) and 93.6 lbs/day & 66 mg/l (daily maximums); **Ammonia** from Apr 1–Sept 30: 0.97 mg/l (monthly average) and 6.1 mg/l (daily maximum), and from Oct 1-Mar 31: 1.94 mg/l (monthly average) and 15.1 mg/l (daily maximum); **Total Nitrogen** 3,553 lbs/year; **Total Phosphorus** 146 lbs/year and 0.28 mg/l (monthly average) & 20 mg/l (daily maximum); **Total Suspended Solids** 6.6 tons/year and 10 mg/l (monthly average) & 20 mg/l (daily maximum); **Oil & Grease** 10 mg/l (monthly average) and 15 mg/l (daily maximum); **E. Coli** 0.8 billion MPN/day (daily loading) and 126 MPN/100 ml (monthly average); **Dissolved Oxygen** 5 mg/l (minimum); **pH** (range 6.5 to 8.5); **Total Residual Chlorine** 11 µg/l (monthly average) and 19 µg/l (daily maximum); **Total Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** 0.0666 lbs/year (annual maximum); **Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)** non-detectable level; and **Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)** non-detectable level.

The limits for PFOS and PFOA become effective two years (24 months) after the effective date of this permit. Prior to the limitation becoming effective, the non-detectable levels are considered action levels. If there is a detection of PFOS or PFOA, this is an exceedance of the action level and requires the permittee to implement corrective actions to attain non-detectable effluent levels.

The permit proposes a compliance schedule until the start of calendar year 2031 for meeting the monthly average limitations for ammonia, during which the limits will be enforced as an annual average. The nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment levels are in conformance with the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load, issued on December 29, 2010.

This permit renewal eliminates authorization for spray irrigation of discharges and facilitates the expansion and upgrade of the facility's wastewater treatment plant. Additional proposed requirements include biomonitoring, groundwater monitoring, an approval process for additive use in treatment, specific requirements for maintaining and submitting PFAS data, and a requirement to maintain general permit coverage for industrial stormwater.

Per MD Environmental Article § 1-602(a)(2), an EJ score was calculated for this facility. The EJ Score is 36.1. This score has been calculated considering a combination of the following factors: Pollution Burden Exposure Percentile, Pollution Burden Environmental Effects Percentile, and Sensitive Population Percentile. For more information on how the score was calculated, launch the MDEnviroScreen tool from this website - https://mde.maryland.gov/Environmental_Justice/Pages/MDEnviroScreen.aspx.

A copy of the application, draft permit, and draft fact sheet may be downloaded from the Department's website at <https://mdewwp.page.link/WWPPortal>. On that webpage, search for State Number 21DP0359, click "More Info," and then select the desired document(s) to download.

Public Hearing

For communication purposes, we encourage all interested individuals to register via the virtual event link below.

A hybrid hearing has been scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9, 2026, beginning at 5:30 p.m..** The in-person hearing will be held at **Wor-Wic Community College, Guerrieri Hall (GH) 101 (Auditorium), 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804.**

The virtual event may be joined via Google Meet. To participate online, you **MUST** register using the following link: <https://mdewwp.page.link/PublicMeetings>. There is also a phone listen-only option. Those who want to monitor the virtual hearing in listen-only mode can call **+1 347-896-0885** and enter this **PIN: 875 738 022#**

The in-person meeting location is accessible to individuals with disabilities as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Individuals who require reasonable accommodation or a language interpreter to participate in the meeting should contact

MDE by email at mde.accommodations@maryland.gov or call 410-537-3152 (MD Relay TTY: 7-1-1) at least 5 business days in advance of the meeting.

Any hearing-impaired person may request an interpreter for the event by contacting the Office of Fair Practices at (410) 537-3964 at least ten working days before the scheduled hearing date. TTY users should contact the Maryland Relay Service at 1-800-201-7165. Wor-Wic Community College is not affiliated with and does not necessarily endorse the opinions, beliefs, statements, writing, and philosophies expressed by this activity or its participants.

People who wish to present information regarding the tentative determination may speak at the public hearing, submit written comments at the public hearing, or submit a written statement to the Department no later than **5 p.m. on September 14, 2026.** All comments will be considered in making a final determination. Comments received via any submission mechanism will be given equal weight.

Written comments should be addressed to the **Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708, Attn.: Mr. Jonathan Rice, Chief, Industrial and General Permits Division.** Written comments may also be emailed to jonathan.rice@maryland.gov. The supporting information for the tentative determination, including the draft permit and fact sheet, may be reviewed by contacting Mr. Rice at the above address or by telephone at (410) 537-3859 or 1-800-633-6101 to schedule an appointment. Copies of documents may be procured at a cost of \$0.36 per page.

To Be Published on: **August 10 and 17, 2026**

Newspaper: **The Daily Times**