

E-Bulletin Newsletter



To provide affordable financial assistance to communities within Wisconsin for water infrastructure projects that protect and improve public health and water quality for current and future generations.



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Market Rate Unchanged

There is no change in the market rate for financial assistance agreements approved by a municipality's governing body on or after January 1, 2023. The market rate for loans that have a final maturity of:

- 20 years or less will remain at 3.900%
- 21-30 years will remain at 4.100%

Learn about and view [current market and interest rates](#) for the Clean Water Fund and Safe Drinking Water Loan Programs.

New Links to Online Systems

Each municipality that plans to apply for financial assistance from the Clean Water Fund Program and/or Safe Drinking Water Loan Program must submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) with Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula (PERF) information and a Financial Assistance Application via the [online systems](#).

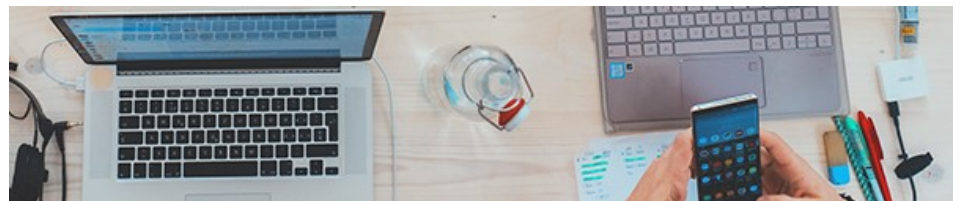
The online systems will have new URLs (uniform resource locators) beginning **February 1, 2023**, due to an agency-wide effort to update our app development platforms and improve security. Please begin using the new web addresses and update your bookmarks. The outdated URLs will redirect to the new URLs for the time being.

Access links to online loan systems

- ITA/PERF: Continue to access it via the [DNR Switchboard](#)
- Application: Bookmark new URL, <https://dnrx.wisconsin.gov/loanappext/>

The look and function of the online systems will not change. Municipal applicants or their consulting engineers will continue to use the application system's document upload feature to attach loan documents.

Let our database manager, Suzy Hasheider, know if you come across any issues or errors. When reporting an error, email the steps you took and a screenshot of the error to Suzan.Hasheider@Wisconsin.gov.



New SDWLP Phone Number

Noah Balgooyen, Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Coordinator, has new cellphone #: **608-720-0802**



Upcoming Deadlines

Winter/Early Spring 2023

SFY 24 CWFP & SDWLP Project Priority Lists (PPLs) published.

- Priority score objections deadline within 30 days of SFY 24 CWFP PPL being published.

DNR, Environmental Loans Section—CF/2, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html | CWFP phone: 608-358-3330 | SDWLP phone: 608-720-0802 | [staff directory webpage](#)



Program implementation details are outlined in chs. [NR 162](#) and [NR 166](#), Wis. Adm. Code. [Legal notice](#): This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in federal regulations or state statutes or administrative rules are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing federal regulations and state statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format upon request, call 608-267-9481 for more information.

SFY 2023 SDWLP Emerging Contaminants Program

The State Fiscal Year 2023 [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) for Emerging Contaminants (EC) funding will be available through a stand-alone program. The BIL-funded EC Program will focus on PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) concerns in drinking water.

On December 14, 2022, the DNR held a webinar discussing the new BIL-funded EC Program. View the recording and slides on the [Project Lists and IUPs page](#) under the SFY 2023 SDWLP heading.

IUP amendment & comments

The SFY 2023 SDWLP Intended Use Plan (IUP) provides detailed descriptions of the changes made to the program relating to the implementation of the BIL. The draft [Emerging Contaminants Amendment](#) to the SFY 2023 SDWLP IUP more fully describes the structure and timing of the BIL-funded EC Program.

The 30-day comment period for the draft EC Amendment ended on December 21, 2022. The comments DNR received are in the process of being analyzed and incorporated into the final EC Amendment. The finalized EC Amendment as well as a response to comments received will likely be posted around the end of January on the [Project Lists and IUPs page](#).

MHI Webpage Update

The Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) use Median Household Income (MHI) data for multiple determinations. To improve customer service, we have consolidated the information on the MHI webpage to more appropriate pages. **Please update your bookmarks** accordingly because the MHI webpage will only redirect to the Data Sources page and will eventually be archived.

- You can find your municipality's MHI on the new Data Sources page at dnr.wi.gov/topic/aid/dataSources.html
- The information about how we use a municipality's MHI to determine the amount of their interest rate subsidy has been moved to the Interest Rates page at dnr.wi.gov/aid/documents/eif/guide/Interest.html#mhi

Wisconsin Salt Awareness Week

Beyond winter road salt, the salt that goes down the drain from water softeners and food processing (e.g., cheese, pickles, soy sauce) also ends up in our freshwater after passing through wastewater treatment facilities that aren't designed to remove salt. Learn about the sources and impacts of salt pollution on freshwater ecosystems, our health, and what's being done during WI Salt Awareness Week, **January 23-27, 2023**.

Experts in hydrology, biogeochemistry, public health, and conservation will discuss facets of this issue that impact your community. Register online at

Deadlines

The additional [SDWLP EC Priority Evaluation & Ranking Form \(PERF\) \(8700-399\)](#), specific to the EC Principal Forgiveness, is available for use. This form should be submitted online with the Intent to Apply (ITA), along with any supporting documents.

- Submit SFY 2023 SDWLP ITAs/PERFs for EC projects through the [online system](#) by **January 20, 2023**.
- Submit SFY 2023 SDWLP Applications for EC projects through the online system by **January 31, 2023**.

Years 2-5 of the SDWLP EC funding will be incorporated into the regular SDWLP application process. State Fiscal Year 2024 EC funding will be available on the same timeline as the regular SDWLP SFY 2024 funding cycle:

- If you missed the October 31, 2022, submittal deadline for SFY 2024 SDWLP ITAs/PERFs, you may submit a deadline variance request to Ryan Atkinson at Ryan.Atkinson@Wisconsin.gov.
- Submit SFY 2024 SDWLP Applications, including approvable plans & specifications and [SDWLP EC PERF](#), for emerging contaminants projects through the [online system](#) by June 30, 2023.

www.wisaltwise.com/Take-Action/Salt-Awareness-Week and tune in daily from 12:30-1pm for a week-long series of YouTube livestreams.



Lead Service Line (LSL) Program Updates

The draft [Lead Service Line \(LSL\) Amendment](#) to the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) Intended Use Plan (IUP) was published on November 16, 2022, for a 30-day public comment period. The DNR received five sets of comments. The final version of the LSL Amendment and a response to comments received will likely be published in early February on the [Project Lists & IUPs page](#).

On December 7, 2022, during the public comment period, the DNR held a webinar discussing the new Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Program funded by the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#). View the recording and slides on the Project Lists & IUPs page under the [SFY 2023 SDWLP heading](#).

WIFTA LSL Program wrapping up

The current Private LSL Replacement Program funded by the Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act (WIFTA) gave recipients a blanket extension to the previous December 2022 deadline for completion of work. This deadline has been extended to April 30, 2023, with final disbursement requests due no later than Friday, June 2, 2023. The corresponding loan disbursement will be wired to the recipient on Wednesday, June 14, 2023. A list of all addresses where LSLs were replaced along with the material type of the new service line, is required to be submitted as part of project closeout.

The last date to execute a Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) for a 2022 LSL project is Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Any applicant who has not yet executed a FAA must do so by this date or their allocation of funds will be returned to the program. Any funds not utilized in the WIFTA program will be added to the new BIL-funded LSL Replacement Program.

BIL LSL Replacement Program

For detailed information on the new BIL-funded program, read the [LSL Amendment](#) to the SFY 2023 SDWLP IUP. The first year of BIL LSL funding will be integrated into the regular SDWLP SFY 2024 funding cycle.

- Submit SFY 2024 SDWLP Applications for LSL projects through the [online system](#) by **June 30, 2023**.

If you are interested in applying but did not submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) by the October 31, 2022 deadline, or would like to submit an ITA with a different project

scope, **you can request a waiver to the ITA/PERF deadline** (for SFY 2024 only).

- Email your deadline variance request to Becky Scott at Rebecca.Scott@Wisconsin.gov and include the WAMS ID of the person who will submit the ITA.

LSL PERF update

The LSL Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) is being revised with the new LSL scoring system information and should be available on our [Forms page](#) sometime in February.

- The updated LSL PERF is required as part of the application submittal.

Environmental Review

Unlike previous versions of the LSL Replacement Program, the Environmental Review (ER) module in the online system will be utilized to submit required ER documentation. Read [SDWLP Environmental Review Guide](#).

- The ER module must be completed as part of the application submittal.

If additional LSL locations (such as for emergency replacements) need to be reviewed after application submittal, information for those locations will need to be emailed directly to Kevin Olson, our ER Specialist, at Kevin.Olson@Wisconsin.gov.

LSL disbursement request form

The [LSL Request for Disbursement Form \(8700-366\)](#) was recently improved for the WIFTA-funded program. This summer, the form will be revised again to incorporate changes relating to the new BIL-funded LSL program.

Spring webinar

We intend to hold an additional LSL webinar later in the spring where we will cover topics such as:

- Prequalified lists vs. municipal contracts
- Targeted projects in disadvantaged census tracts
- Environmental reviews
- Federal requirements
- Set-aside usage

We will announce more about this webinar via our website and E-Bulletins later in the spring.



2023 Disbursement Schedule Available

View and download the Environmental Loans
[2023 Disbursement Schedule with 12-Month Calendar](#)

Monitor Davis-Bacon Wage Determination (WD)

Prior to issuing a request for bids or proposals, the municipality or their consulting engineer must obtain the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA) wage determination for the project area from [SAM.gov/content/wage-determinations](https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations). The municipality must include the generated WD document in all bid specifications and resulting contracts.

- Read [Complying with Davis-Bacon Requirements](#)

Monitor and update

During the bid advertisement period, municipalities or their consulting engineers **must** monitor SAM.gov to ensure the Department of Labor has not changed the wage determination.

- If the WD changes more than 10 days before bid opening, the bid specifications must be amended with the new WD.
- Once the bids have been opened, the WD is valid for 90 days.
- If contract award is more than 90 days after bid opening, the WD must be updated.

The DBA wage determination included in the contract at the time of contract award stays in effect for the duration of the project.

Get notified of changes

A SAM.gov account is required in order to access additional functionality beyond the basic public search. If you have an account, sign in to SAM.gov. [Follow these steps to create an account](#).

- To receive a notification when a wage determination changes, select "Follow" at the top of the WD record. By default, you will receive immediate notifications of changes to the item.
- [Learn to manage the WDs that you follow](#).

Context

The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (DBRA) apply to all Clean Water Fund Program and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program projects because the programs are federally funded. The DBRA requires all contractors and subcontractors performing on federally funded construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 to pay their laborers and mechanics no less than the locally prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area as determined by the Secretary of Labor for inclusion in Davis-Bacon-covered contracts.

Authorized Representative Resolution Not Required

Since 1996, the Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) has required that the Authorized Representative Resolution be submitted with the application. The resolution authorizes an individual municipal official/employee to act as the municipality's representative for the purpose of filing loan applications and providing other documentation required for obtaining funding in connection with said applications.

In the past, only the authorized representative could sign the application form for financial assistance. With applications now being electronic, the Environmental Loans Section determined the resolution is redundant.

Beginning with State Fiscal Year 2024 projects, the Authorized Representative Resolution will no longer be required.

The WAMS ID and Online Submittal Authorization Certificate serve a similar purpose to the previous resolution.

WAMS ID required

To gain access to the online loan systems, you must create a Web Access Management System (WAMS) ID and then register with the DNR Switchboard; instructions are available on our [Online Systems page](#).

Online Submittal Authorization Certificate required

If you are a consultant, the municipality must authorize you to submit materials through the online loan systems on its behalf by completing an [EIF Online Submittal Authorization Certificate \(Form 8700-377\)](#). The certificate must be signed by a municipal representative (e.g., clerk, administrator, director of public works, mayor, president, or other municipal official or employee) who has been delegated authority to sign similar documents.

The DNR will not grant the consultant access to the online systems *before* the signed, completed certificate is received by DNR.

The consultant's authorization is in effect until the municipality cancels it.

