

# Environmental Loans E-Bulletin

**We're on the Web!**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html>

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## Interest Rate Lowered

The WI Department of Administration has established a new market rate for the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) and the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP). Effective January 1, 2015, the new market rate is 3.0%. Based on this market rate, subsidy levels are as follows for our programs:

Project Type	Percent of Market Rate	Current Interest Rate
<b>Clean Water Fund Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects to maintain compliance with existing effluent limits or to meet new or changed effluent limits.</li> <li>Projects for storm water and non-point.</li> <li>Projects to sewer previously unsewered areas.</li> </ul>	<b>75%</b>	<b>2.25%</b>
<b>Safe Drinking Water Loan Program</b> Projects of municipalities with populations less than 10,000 and MHIs less than 80% of the state median household income (MHI).	<b>33%</b>	<b>0.99%</b>
<b>Safe Drinking Water Loan Program</b> Projects of municipalities not meeting the above criteria.	<b>55%</b>	<b>1.65%</b>
<b>MARKET RATE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>



### Application Deadlines

*This is a friendly reminder that...*

The deadline for all SDWLP applications and CWFP Hardship applications is **June 30**.

The CWFP application deadline for principal forgiveness is **September 30**.

There is no deadline for non-hardship CWFP applications, *unless* applying for principal forgiveness.



## Project Priority Lists (PPLs)

Staff at DNR are actively assessing the PERFs associated with the ITAs and scoring projects as needed. We hope to complete the scoring process by early March and have our CWFP and SDWLP project priority lists prepared shortly afterwards. We understand the interest in having the priority lists completed as expeditiously as possible. We note that next year, the deadline for ITA and PERF submittals will be October 31, which gives everyone a little more time to gather the information needed to submit applications by their deadlines.

## ***On-Line ITA Submittals a Success!***

We are pleased to report that 170 of the 423 ITAs received by the DNR were successfully submitted using the new on-line system by the December 31, 2014 deadline for SFY 2016 funding. Becky Mesdjian, our database administrator, led a talented group who all contributed to this project's success. The on-line submittal access has been shut down and will be reopened in plenty of time for the next year's ITA submittals (SFY 17).

The deadline for the next fiscal year's ITA submittals is anticipated to be October 31, assuming the revisions to chs. NR 162 and 166, Wis. Adm. Code are promulgated this spring. The rules require the ITAs and PERFs to both be submitted using our on-line system.

On-line submittals should save everyone time and effort and better ensure that deadlines are met. While we enjoyed seeing those of you who hand-delivered these documents to us during the holiday season, we anticipate that you will find the new submittal process more efficient and effective. More detailed information on the implementation of the full on-line process will be distributed later this spring.

A big thanks to those who submitted ITAs on-line this year, as it enabled us to test the system and work out the details before the requirements for submittals become effective.



## ***Procurement Questions for Sole Suppliers***

It is important to ensure that procurement requirements are met when seeking funding from the Clean Water Fund and Safe Drinking Water Loan Programs.

To assist with that need, the DNR publishes a guidance document to assist local governments. This guidance is updated as appropriate by the DNR Bureau of Legal Services and was last updated in October 2013. "Procurement Guidance for Local Governments Receiving Grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources" is posted on the Environmental Loans website at [dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/ProcurementGuide.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/ProcurementGuide.pdf).

We often get questions regarding a community's interest or need to use a sole supplier for some aspect of their project. You are responsible for ensuring your municipality follows appropriate procurement procedures. Pages 9-11 of this guidance address bidding exceptions and may be useful in determining the type of bidding necessary for various aspects of your project.

An example of when municipalities have used a sole supplier is in procuring equipment for a project to install new or replace existing equipment and only that sole supplier's parts would fit the connections or size limitations. For example, SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) equipment needs to be compatible with the other existing SCADA equipment in the community.

If, after careful consideration, only a sole supplier can provide the necessary equipment for a portion of your project, we will need a legal opinion verifying that compliance with the state procurement process occurred during the purchase of this sole supplier equipment. In all cases, you must follow your municipal procurement requirements.

Please discuss this with your DNR project manager if you have further questions or concerns.

## Informational Webinars

The Environmental Loans program is announcing a series of informational webinars on important program topics. The first two topics we will be addressing are Use of American Iron and Steel (UAIS) and upcoming program changes (either from WRRDA or rule revisions).

Expect the first webinar in late February.

We are working out the logistics but anticipate that each webinar will consist of a 15-minute presentation followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers. The webinars will then be posted on our web site for future reference.

If you have a topic you would like presented in a future webinar, please send your ideas to Kay Christensen at [kay.christensen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kay.christensen@wisconsin.gov). Kay will keep track of the suggestions and we will prioritize them as time allows.



The *Environmental Loans E-Bulletin* is written by staff in DNR's Environmental Loans Section to provide up-to-date information on both the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. It is sent out periodically to alert subscribers of the latest news, updates, and upcoming deadlines; to highlight program changes; and to provide assistance on topics that need clarification.

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**Remember to contact your  
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pre-construction meeting.**

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