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Environmental Loans

E-Bulletin Newsletter

Submit SFY 2018 ITAs/PERFs Now

The [on-line system](#) is available for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2018 Intent to Apply (ITA) & Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula (PERF) submittals. You may submit your SFY 2018 ITAs/PERFs now!

Get your Switchboard Requests and [Authorization Certificates](#) in early! The final submittal date for DNR Switchboard access requests and authorization certificates is October 21, 2016. Learn how to request a WAMS ID and DNR Switchboard access at *On-Line Submittals*, <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/OnlineSubmissions.html#request>.

October 31, 2016 is the [ITA/PERF](#) submittal deadline for a project to be eligible for funding in SFY 2018. This requirement applies to all types of projects funded under both the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP), including projects for replacement of private lead service lines (LSLs).

This means the October 31 ITA/PERF deadline applies to any and all projects seeking funding between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. NOTE: Variance requests from this ITA/PERF submittal deadline requirement will NOT be routinely approved for SFY 2018 private lead service line program projects.

Direct on-line submittal system questions to Becky Mesdjian at 608-266-5888 or rebecca.mesdjian@wisconsin.gov.

SFY 2018 ITA/PERF Timeline & Deadlines

Now: Request WAMS ID & DNR Switchboard access.

Now: Authorization certificate for SFY 2018 is available.

Now: Submit online SFY 2018 ITAs/PERFs.

October 21, 2016: Final submittal date for Switchboard requests, WAMS ID requests, and authorization certificates.

October 31, 2016: Deadline for submitting ITAs/PERFs for SFY 2018 funding.

Contact Information for Environmental Loans



Phone 608-266-7555 | **Fax** 608-267-0496 | **Web** dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html
Staff Directory dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/managers.html

Mailing Address

ENVIRONMENTAL LOANS - CF/2
 DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 PO BOX 7921
 MADISON WI 53707-7921

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CWFP PF Application Deadline is Sept. 30, 2016

September 30, 2016 is the deadline for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) applications for municipalities seeking Principal Forgiveness (PF) funds. An application submitted by the PF deadline will not be considered complete unless:

- the **facility plan** has DNR approval prior to the September 30 deadline; and
- the project's approvable biddable plans and specifications are submitted to DNR's [Water Quality Bureau](#) by the CWFP PF application deadline. This (1) copy of plans and specifications is for the DNR Water Quality plan review engineer.

Two (2) additional copies of the plans and specifications must be submitted with the financial assistance application for it to be complete. One of these two required copies, however, can be electronic. One copy of the plans and specifications is for the DNR construction management engineer (CME) and the other copy is for the DNR project manager.

A total of three (3) copies of the project's approvable biddable **plans and specifications** must be submitted to DNR for approval on or before the deadline.



SDWLP Specialist

Nicole Mathews is changing her area of specialty from disbursements to serving as the specialist for the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP). Direct SDWLP questions to Nicole at 608-266-0849 or nicole.mathews@wisconsin.gov.

EPA Changes to DBE Program Out for Review

EPA DIRECT FINAL RULE: Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Procurements Under EPA Financial Assistance Agreements

The EPA is amending subparts A through E of 40 CFR part 33. According to the announcement, the changes are to improve the practical utility of the EPA's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program and minimize the burden to affected entities.

Comments are due to EPA by August 29, 2016. The final rule is scheduled to go into effect on October 26, 2016. DNR will summarize any substantive changes once they go into effect.

For more information, go to

<https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-17510>.

Direct DBE questions to Meja Maka at 608-266-9193 or meja.maka@wisconsin.gov.

Two New Project Managers!

Please give a warm welcome to Greg Farmer and Matt Marcum! They begin as project managers on August 22 and are new to the EL program, so please have patience as they learn its intricacies.

Greg Farmer will be serving as the 2nd disbursement specialist and helping with federal reporting. Greg brings great skills in accounting and attention to detail. He previously worked for the Department of Revenue (DOR) as well as DNR's Finance and Human Resources programs.

Matt Marcum will be coordinating the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP). Matt has a MS in Environmental Science and a BS in Biology. He is very excited to be working on water and environmental topics. Currently, Matt is employed at the Department of Health Services (DHS) managing several grant and contract programs.

CWFP Hardship SFY 2017 Funding List

The Department received five (5) complete CWFP SFY 2017 Hardship Financial Assistance Applications totaling \$18,283,568 in requested costs by the June 30th deadline. Michelle Eis, the Hardship Specialist, will work with those communities to further determine eligibility and financing options. Please direct CWFP Hardship questions to Michelle at 608-267-0490 or michellem.eis@wisconsin.gov.

Funding Lists

The SFY 2017 Funding Lists show the allocation of loan and Principal Forgiveness (PF) dollars for each project.

Draft Funding Lists

Draft Funding Lists are published after we review all application submittals for completeness. Complete applications submitted by the program deadline are included on the Draft Funding List.

- The traditional SDWLP Draft Funding List will be posted by August 24, 2016. Forty-four (44) applications were received requesting slightly over \$90 million in funding. Those applications are currently being reviewed for completeness.
- Thirty-eight (38) applications seeking approximately \$14.5 million were received for private lead service line (LSL) replacement funding. The Draft Funding List for these projects is available on our website, http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/news/SDWLP_SF2017_LSL_Funding_List.pdf.

Final Funding Lists

Funding Lists include complete applications submitted by the program deadline and are finalized when we receive the Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Capitalization Grants from EPA (anticipated by the end of September).

- For SDWLP and CWFP Hardship projects for which the application deadline was June 30, the Funding List will be finalized when we receive the EPA grant.

- For CWFP projects seeking Principal Forgiveness, the Funding List will be finalized when applications submitted by the September 30th deadline are determined to be complete (assuming we already received the EPA grant).

Before the SDWLP Funding List is finalized, project managers will contact each municipality to determine if more accurate budget information is available. Those final budgets will be listed on the Final Funding List for SDWLP SFY 2017 projects.

Our **Intended Use Plans** (IUPs) outline how funds are used in our programs and are posted by program on our website, <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LoanNews.html#tabx2>.

Direct LSL questions to Becky Scott at 608-267-7584 or rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov.

Direct SDWLP questions to Nicole Mathews at 608-266-0849 or nicole.mathews@wisconsin.gov.



Submit Applications to PSC to Increase Water Rates for SFY 2017 Projects

If you need a rate increase to support your new loan/bond (including debt coverage) for your Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) project, you should make certain to submit your rate increase application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) **no later than November 15, 2016**.

Processing a Request to Increase Rates Takes 120-150 Days

PSC's goal is to process a rate case application in a timely fashion after receipt, but the process takes between 120-150 days without setback. Therefore, it is important that accurate and complete information is filed.

We encourage you to submit your rate increase application to PSC **as early as possible** in order to help ensure sufficient time for processing.

Rate Order Due to DNR by March 15 for June 30 Loan Closing

SDWLP loans for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 must close by June 30, 2017. In order to close your SDWLP loan, you must provide your PSC water rate order (authorizing the utility to charge the increased rates) to your DNR project manager by March 15, 2017.

A municipality can lose its SDWLP funding allocation if the rate increase is not approved by PSC early enough to close by the June 30 deadline.

Before the DNR project manager can prepare the FAA and loan-closing schedule, the municipality must submit to him/her all necessary documentation for the SDWLP project, including:

- A copy of the PSC water rate order approval
- A copy of the resolution adopting the PSC rate increase

Submit a Request to Increase Rates Several Months Out

To allow for enough processing time, submit your rate increase application to PSC several months out from March 15, 2017, which is the date your PSC water rate order is due to your DNR Project Manager for your SFY 2017 SDWLP project loan closing:

November 15, 2016 **4 months out**
120 days out is the minimum processing time without any setback.

October 16, 2016 **5 months out**

September 16, 2016 **6 months out**

Helpful Links

- Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
<http://psc.wi.gov/water/index.htm>
- PSC Application to Increase Water and/or Sewer Rates <http://psc.wi.gov/appsIndex/rateWater.htm>
- PSC Introduction to Water Rates and Process (Nov. 2015) <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/water/utilityTraining/documents/introWaterRates.pdf>

Direct PSC and rate increase questions to Kathleen Butzlaff at 608-267-9817 or kathleen.butzlaff@wisconsin.gov.

