



2014 Wisconsin Rural Water Association
26th Annual Technical Conference, Green Bay, WI

ENVIRONMENTAL LOANS STAFF:

Robin Schmidt – Environmental Loans Section Chief
(608-266-3915); robin.schmidt@wi.gov

Project Managers:

- **Jeanne Cargill** – policy coordinator
(608-267-7587); jeanne.cargill@wi.gov
- **Laurie Fike** – CMAR specialist
(608-266-4536); laurie.fike@wi.gov
- **Maureen Hubeler** – disbursement specialist, closeout specialist (608-266-0849);
maureen.hubeler@wi.gov
- **Kim Leizinger** – disbursement specialist
(608-264-8844); kimberly.leizinger@wi.gov
- **Meja Maka** – DBE requirements
(608-266-9193); meja.maka@wi.gov
- **Becky Scott** – federal liaison;
stormwater projects (608-267-7584);
rebecca.scott@wi.gov
- **Samantha Jordt** – project manager;
(608) 267-2450; samantha.jordt@wi.gov
- **Candice Sovinski** – Clean Water Fund Program specialist (608-264-8986);
candice.sovinski@wi.gov
- **Mary (E) Wagner** – Safe Drinking Water Loan Program specialist (608-267-7475);
marye.wagner@wi.gov

Technical/Support Staff:

- **Kay Christensen** – Outreach Coordinator/Adm.
- **Becky Mesdjian** – ELOS Data Base Manager
- **Cindy Wheeler** – Administrative Support

The Environmental Loans E-Bulletin is written by staff in the WI DNR Environmental Loans Section to provide up-to-date information on both the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. These E-Bulletins will be sent out periodically to alert you to upcoming deadlines, highlight program changes and provide assistance on topics that need clarification. The E-Bulletin replaces the “Updates” which have been used in the past to get timely information to our customers.

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Environmental Review Protocol

Recent changes in Environmental Review protocol in ch. NR 150, Wis. Admin. Code, have brought up questions about how these state level changes affect our loan program requirements. The short answer is: they don't.

Projects seeking Clean Water Fund Program funding undergo the Environmental/Archeological/Historical (E/A/H) review as part of the facilities planning process; therefore, additional environmental reviews are not needed to secure their funding from the CWFP. Although state statutes exempt drinking water projects from the E/A/H review requirements, projects financed through the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program must comply with federal requirements, which include the E/A/H review.

The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program environmental review requirements are dictated first by EPA and then by the state. To determine whether your project necessitates an environmental review, please see the information and flow chart available on our website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/Guide/ERProcessSDWLP.pdf>.



Water Taste Contest
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National Waivers Approved for the Use of American Iron & Steel

On April 15th the EPA signed two national public interest waivers related to the Use of American Iron & Steel (AIS) requirements. The entire text of both waivers can be found on EPA's AIS website at the link below.

The first waiver is a De Minimis Waiver for incidental components of eligible water infrastructure projects. The waiver states that "Funds used for such de minimis incidental components cumulatively may comprise no more than a total of 5 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project; the cost of an individual item may not exceed 1 percent of the total cost of the materials used in and incorporated into a project."

The second waiver is a Plan and Specifications Waiver. This waiver is for projects which had engineering plans and specifications submitted to the appropriate state agency prior to and including January 17, 2014 as well as being approved between and including January 17 and April 15, 2014 (the date the waiver was signed).

We are working on creating a request form and process for submitting project-specific waiver requests. These requests must be submitted to the state first where they will be reviewed for completeness. Once the request is complete we will forward it on to EPA. Page 11 of the EPA's AIS Requirement Guidance PDF (available at the link below) goes into detail about the EPA's waiver process.

We are also working on a certification form which will be required in order to receive financial assistance from the CWFP or SDWLP. More information will be forthcoming along with information on the waiver process.

The EPA hosted a webinar on April 9th which was a presentation and discussion of their guidance for American Iron and Steel requirements. This webinar will be posted on EPA's website. EPA is hosting a second webinar on April 23rd with a focus on Manufacturers, Suppliers, Contractors, and Consulting Engineers.

Visit the EPA's new American Iron and Steel Requirement website for more info:
http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/aisrequirement.cfm

EPA Webinar on Use of American Iron & Steel

Wednesday, April 23rd - 1:00 until 2:30 p.m.

<https://epa.connectsolutions.com/aiswebinar1/>

There is no registration for this webinar, simply click on the link above on the 23rd. It's recommended gathering in one room so only one connection is used.

**Focus on: Manufacturers, Suppliers, Contractors, Consulting Engineers, etc.*

Upcoming Deadlines

June 25th:

Deadline for SFY '14 SDWLP loan closing

June 30th:

Deadline for SFY '15 SDWLP applications

Deadline for SFY '15 CWFP hardship applications

September 30th:

Deadline for SFY '15 CWFP principal forgiveness applications

SFY 2015 CWFP and SDWLP Project Priority Lists (PPL)

The SFY 2015 CWFP Final Project Priority List was posted on 4/14/2014 to the EL website. It is available to view on the Project Lists tab on the EIF Loans News webpage:

http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/news/CWFP_SFY2015_FINAL_PPL.pdf

If you have questions regarding the SFY 2015 CWFP Project Priority List, please contact Candice Sovinski at candice.sovinski@wisconsin.gov or (608) 264-8986.

The SFY 2015 SDWLP Draft Project Priority List was posted on 4/14/2014 to the EL website. It is available to view on the Project Lists tab on the EIF Loans News webpage:

http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/news/SDWLP_SFY2015_DRAFT_PPL.pdf

If you have questions regarding the SFY 2015 SDWLP Project Priority List, please contact Mary E. Wagner at marye.wagner@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-7475.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL CME PRIOR TO YOUR PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING

Regional Construction Management Engineers:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|
| Northeast Region: | Bob Hannes | robert.hannes@wisconsin.gov | (920) 366-4208 |
| Northern Region: | Steve Ohm* | steven.ohm@wisconsin.gov | (715) 365-8939* |
| South Central Region: | Bernie Robertson | bernie.robertson@wisconsin.gov | (608) 516-3623 |
| Southeast Region: | Frank Fuja | francis.fuja@wisconsin.gov | (414) 303-1711 |
| Western Region: | Judy Hayducsko | judy.hayducsko@wisconsin.gov | (715) 491-3290 |

(*cell number not yet available)

Direct Purchases

All direct purchases must be approved by your Construction Management Engineer (CME), preferably prior to purchase. Contact your CME by email with details of the item(s) to be purchased; your CME will determine whether the direct purchase is eligible, reasonable, and necessary. Also, consult state and local procurement laws at <http://dnr.wi.gov/AID/documents/ProcurementGuide.pdf> to determine whether the item(s) requires bidding, a Class I notice, or neither – depending on the cost. If a direct purchase is not procured properly, the Clean Water Fund and Safe Drinking Water Loan Programs cannot reimburse the costs.

An invoice is required for final approval from your CME for the direct purchase. If an eligible direct purchase is included on a Request for Disbursement prior to CME approval, DNR will withhold payment pending approval by the CME. Direct purchase costs should be included in the project budget prior to issuing the Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) so DNR can allocate appropriate funds to be available when the purchase is made. Direct purchases made after the FAA is issued will be paid from the contingency allowance included in the budget, which could leave the budget short of funds for change orders; so it's best to consider necessary direct purchases before DNR issues the FAA. Also, sales tax should not be paid if the purchase(s) is made directly by the municipality. Sales tax is ineligible for reimbursement.

Happy Earth Day



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