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

Inside this Issue

New SDWLP Application for 6-30-14 Deadline	Pg. 1
UAIS - Q & A Posted Valves and Hydrants	Pg. 1
UAIS Waiver Process and Certification	Pg. 1
SDWLP Final PPL Online for SFY 15	Pg. 2
Number of ITAs & PERFs Received	Pg. 2
DNR Request Hearing Authorization from NRB for NR 162 & 166	Pg. 2
New Small Loans Specialist: Michelle Eis	Pg. 2
CWFP IUP Available for Review	Pg. 3
WI First in Number of Public Water Suppliers	Pg. 3
New Federal Legislation Anticipated	Pg. 4
Staff Contact Info	Pg. 4

New SDWLP Application – Deadline June 30th, 2014

REMINDER: To compete for principal forgiveness funds and/or loan funds from the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2015, you must submit a complete application (including plans and specifications) to DNR postmarked, shipped or hand-delivered by **June 30, 2014**. Also, by June 30th, you must have received DNR approval on the engineering report for your project. You must use the recently revised [SDWLP Financial Assistance Application](#) form (*Adobe Reader version 8 or higher is required; free downloads at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>*). SDWLP Application Form revisions include:

- ⇒ You can repeatedly save the form as you fill it out.
- ⇒ New questions regarding Environmental/Archeological/Historical (E/A/H) Review (Page 8, Part III-C).
- ⇒ READ the instructions for the **Project Budget Sheet** (page 5 of application form). It was recently revised with automatic calculations for totals, percentages, ratios, and other arithmetical formulas. Form instructions have been updated.
- ⇒ READ the instructions for the **Non-core Cost Budget Sheet** (page 7 of application form). It's a NEW page/section with automatic calculations for totals, percentages, ratios, and other arithmetical formulas. Identify Non-core project activities and associated costs that fall outside the core project scope of the engineering, construction, or equipment contracts but will contribute to the overall functionality or integrity of the system. No contingency will be allowed for Non-core costs. Non-core funds will be allocated after the SDWLP Funding List is finalized and it's determined that funds are still available.

Direct questions about Part V, Financial Information, to Aaron Heintz, DOA, at 608-266-0739. Direct general questions to Mary E. Wagner at 608-267-7475 or marve.wagner@wisconsin.gov.

UAIS - Valves & Hydrants EPA HQ has been receiving questions about valves and hydrants. Answers posted on their AIS website: http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/aisrequirement.cfm.

Upcoming Deadlines

June 25th:

- Deadline for SFY 14 SDWLP loan closing

June 30th:

- Deadline for SFY 15 SDWLP applications as well as plans and specifications
- **Deadline for SFY 15 CWFP hardship applications**
- *End of State Fiscal Year 14*

Use of American Iron & Steel Waiver Request Submittal Process and Certification Form

Environmental Loans staff 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 EPA's American Iron and Steel Requirement Guidance PDF goes into detail about the EPA's waiver process: http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/upload/AIS-final-guidance-3-20-14.pdf.

We are also working on a Use of American Iron and Steel Certification Form which will be required in order to receive financial assistance from the CWFP or SDWLP. More information about the certification form and the waiver process will be forthcoming.

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

SDWLP Final PPL Online for SFY 15

The SFY 2015 SDWLP Final Project Priority List was posted on 5/22/2014 to the Environmental Loans 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_FINAL_PPL.pdf.

Letters including project scores were sent to municipalities with a 30-day deadline to submit any additional information that may affect their score. 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.

Number of ITAs and PERFs Received for SFY 15

For the SDWLP, the Department received 189 Intent to Apply forms (ITA) and 101 newly submitted Priority Evaluation and Ranking Forms (PERF) that were reviewed by staff in the Drinking/Groundwater Section. Note: The department determined six projects were not eligible for SDWLP funds based on the ITA or PERF received by 12/31/13. Projects not eligible are not included on the Project Priority List. If you have questions regarding the SDWLP, please contact Mary E. Wagner at marye.wagner@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-7475.

For the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP), the Department received 196 ITAs and 93 PERFs scored by the Regional Construction Management Engineers. We also received 11 CWFP Pilot Project submissions. If you have questions regarding the CWFP, please contact Candice Sovinski at candice.sovinski@wisconsin.gov or 608-264-8986.

DNR to Request Hearing Authorization for chs. NR 162 and NR 166 Rule Revisions

The DNR will ask the Natural Resources Board (NRB) for hearing authorization for the draft rule revisions to chs. NR 162 and NR 166, Wis. Adm. Code, at their June 25th meeting in Milwaukee. If approved, we anticipate a web-cast public hearing in 5 locations throughout the state on the morning of July 29th, which will be within the 30-day public comment period. More information about the public comment period and public hearing will be made available after the NRB meeting on June 25th.

A Warm Welcome to New Small Loans Specialist, Michelle Eis

Please welcome Michelle Eis to Environmental Loans. Michelle will serve as a project manager and as the Small Loans Program specialist. She is new to the program, so please have patience as she learns the program. Michelle has degrees in Environmental Policy/Planning from UW – Green Bay and the University of Oxford. We're excited to now have a full complement of staff working to help get funding assistance out to our municipalities! Michelle's contact information is on the last page's sidebar along with the other staff in the program.



Please Remember

If you need to send us a large document (over 25 pages long), please print it out and snail mail it to the department.

WI DNR
BUREAU OF COMMUNITY
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - CF/2
101 S WEBSTER ST
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CWFP Intended Use Plan (IUP) Available for Review

The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) IUP can be found on our website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LoanNews.html#tabx2>. The two-week public comment period for the CWFP IUP begins on Friday, June 6, 2014. Comments are due by Friday, June 20, 2014. E-mail comments are encouraged.

E-mail comments should be sent to rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov. Faxed comments should be sent to the attention of Becky Scott at 608-267-0496. Mailed comments should be sent to:

Becky Scott
WDNR - CF/2
PO BOX 7921
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Each year, the EIF is required by EPA to publish an IUP for each program to identify: use of Capitalization Grant monies by the state Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds;

required state matching funds; other funds available in the State Revolving Funds (SRF); how these funds support the goals of the federal Acts; and allocation methodology for principal forgiveness funds.

The IUPs are part of Wisconsin's capitalization grant application packages for FFY 2014 funds. These EPA capitalization grants will be used for funding during SFY 2015. After EPA awards Wisconsin's capitalization grants, the EIF program uses those grants, the state matching funds, and other money available in the SRFs to provide financial assistance for clean water and drinking water projects as well as fund programmatic drinking water set-asides.

The FFY 2014 Safe Drinking Water IUP will be published in late July along with the draft funding list. Direct questions or comments about IUPs to Becky Scott at 608-267-7584 or rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov.

National Drinking Water Week a time to reflect on gains and the way forward

Wisconsin Moves into First Place in Number of Public Water Suppliers

Published May 6, 2014
For more info contact Jill Jonas at 608-267-7545.
more at... [\[DNR Features\]](#) - [\[DNR Weekly News\]](#)

MADISON - Forty years after the Safe Drinking Water Act, Wisconsin has more public water suppliers than any other state and is a leader in providing safe water to sustain citizens and leading industries, state environmental officials say.

"The changes in how we deliver, test and disinfect water in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the United States is a tremendous success story," says Jill Jonas, who leads the Department of Natural Resources Drinking and Groundwater program.

"Generally, you can travel anywhere in Wisconsin and in the United States and feel confident about drinking a glass of water. That wasn't the case 100 years ago. You weren't assured of the water's safety, and it had a tremendous impact on our public's health," she says. In 1910, for instance, Wisconsin's State Board of Health reported an incidence of waterborne typhoid fever in Wisconsin at a rate of 105 cases per 100,000 population.

Wisconsin had 11,409 public water supplies in 2012, surpassing Michigan with 11,044. Public drinking water systems provide at least 25 people drinking water for at least 60 days out of the year and range from municipal water suppliers to the state's largest cities to the churches, schools and taverns that provide water to their users.

Even as their numbers have grown in Wisconsin and they are required to monitor for more contaminants, Wisconsin's public water systems have maintained an exemplary track record of delivering safe water, Jonas says.

In 2012, the latest year for which figures are available, 96 percent of these public water systems had no water samples exceeding health-based standards for regulated contaminants. "That's a real credit to the local operators, the state staff, the association members and everybody else who has a role in providing safe drinking water," Jonas says. "We often take our drinking water for granted because of the work they do day-in and day-out so that all we have to do is turn on the tap."

Jonas chairs the federal council that provides recommendations to EPA on issues related to the national drinking water program.

She says that as much progress as has been made under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the nation and citizens will need to embrace new and better ways to meet the challenge of providing safe water in the future.

"The Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act really did make significant improvements in our water quality but protecting sources of drinking water is the key for the future. There are tens of thousands of potential contaminants and we're never going to be able to use the approach we're using now. There is no way to keep up."

Jonas says that in Wisconsin and nationally, water officials are working on how to better connect regulatory tools and incentives so that they encourage practices that benefit both surface waters, like lakes and rivers, and drinking water supplies.

"That's a real credit to the local operators, the state staff, the association members and everybody else who has a role in providing safe drinking water"

For example, practices that reduce contaminants found in commercial fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste and other sources from reaching lakes, rivers and groundwater will benefit our drinking water, she says. And addressing these practices on a local scale can be far more cost effective than paying for a multi-million dollar treatment plant to remove them from drinking water.

"What we've achieved so far is good news. We have to keep moving in that direction," she says. "We have so much groundwater and surface water we are truly fortunate. It's a gift not seen anywhere else in the world. So we have a responsibility to protect that as best we can."

New Federal Legislation Anticipated

Congress is moving forward with the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) including the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA). Below are some highlights and what we think it means for Wisconsin's CWFIP implementation:

- ⇒ Requires evaluation of cost-effectiveness of projects
- ⇒ Maximizes the potential for efficient water use, reuse, recapture and conservation
- ⇒ Makes principal forgiveness a permanent part of the CW SRF in years when the national allocation for the program exceeds \$1 billion
- ⇒ Makes the Use of American Iron and Steel a permanent component of the program
- ⇒ Requires EPA to review the allotment formula used to allocate funds to the states and submit a report to Congress on the results of that review (anticipated to result in the use of the Needs Survey to help determine the allocation of funding to the various states)

Subtitle C of the act relates to the WIFIA and projects implemented by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US EPA. The Act defines eligible entities (corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, trusts, a federal, state or local government or agency, a tribal government or tribal consortium, or a state infrastructure financing authority).

Eligible projects include those for flood damage reduction, restoration of aquatic ecosystems, improvements to inland and intra-coastal waterway navigation systems, wastewater treatment works, desalination plants, and the acquisition of property for the construction of projects.

State SRF programs are given the first opportunity to fund projects requesting funding through WIFIA. Discretionary appropriations for these projects are projected to be:

\$20 million for FFY 15,
 \$25 million for FFY 16,
 \$35 million for FFY 17,
 \$45 million for FFY 18, and
 \$50 million for FFY 19.

Wisconsin will participate in an EPA meeting later in June to discuss implementation issues associated with this new legislation. As more information is available, we will have additional articles in the E-bulletin.

Questions on the new legislation can be directed to Robin Schmidt, Environmental Loans Section Chief, at robin.schmidt@wisconsin.gov or 608-266-3915.

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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.