



NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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DATE: Feb. 12, 2008

CONTACTS: Larry Lynch (608) 267-7553

SUBJECT: *Public comments welcome on Environmental Analysis for Clear Lake
Campground Contact Station potable water well*

MADISON, Wis. – People are invited to comment on results of an environmental assessment of a proposed high-capacity potable water well at the Clear Lake Campground Contact Station within the Northern Highlands – American Legion State Forest near Woodruff. Written, e-mail or oral comments on the environmental assessment may be submitted through February 29, 2008.

The analysis was prepared to supplement the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the state forest master plan. Because the proposed well is within 1,200 feet of Clear Lake, a designated Outstanding Resource Water, the proposed well had to be reviewed under Chapter NR 820, Wis. Adm. Code to determine whether significant adverse environmental impacts could result from its construction and operation.

The environmental analysis of the proposed well concludes that significant adverse impacts to the lake will not occur. The DNR has made a preliminary determination that an additional environmental impact statement will not be required for this action.

Copies of the supplemental environmental analysis that led to the DNR's preliminary determination can be obtained from Lawrence Lynch, Hydrogeologist, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, 101 S. Webster, Madison, WI 53707, (608) 267-7553, lawrence.lynch@wisconsin.gov.

The supplemental environmental analysis is also available on the web at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/eis/eis.htm>. The NHALSF Master Plan and EIS on which the supplemental EA is based are available on the web at: http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/NHAL/.

Comments on the analysis and DNR's preliminary determination can be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. March 4, 2008 to Lawrence Lynch at the above listed mailing address, e-mail, or via telephone.

Title of Original Environmental Impact Statement: Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Draft Master Plan And Environmental Impact Statement
Region or Bureau Drinking Water and Groundwater
Type List Designation NR 150.03(6)(a)6.a

Contact Person: Lawrence Lynch
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Applicant: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Address: 101 S Webster Street - DG/2
Madison WI 53703

Title of Proposed Supplement: Clear Lake Campground Contact Station potable water well

Location: County: Oneida City/Town/Village: Town of Forest

Township Range Section(s): T39N, R7E, S8

SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

Describe the nature of proposed supplement to the original impact statement and the reasons for the change.

The Wisconsin DNR has proposed to construct a potable water well at the Clear Lake Campground Contact Station within the Northern Highlands – American Legion State Forest near Woodruff. The project location is shown on the attached map. Pursuant to ss. NR 812.07(51) and (52), Wis. Adm. Code, the state forest property constitutes a high capacity property and the proposed well, even though it would be pumped at less than 70 gallons per minute, is regulated as a high capacity well. As such, the well is subject to review under Ch. NR 820, Wis. Adm. Code, and also must be approved under Ch. NR 812 prior to construction. Further, because the proposed well is within 1,200 feet of Clear Lake, an Outstanding Resource Water, the well must be reviewed under Chapter NR 820, Wis. Adm. Code, to determine whether significant adverse environmental impacts could result from its construction and operation.

The proposed well is part of a project to improve services provided at the contact station. The improvement project includes replacement of the campground registration station with a larger office in which three staff will work year-round. The new office will also have public restrooms and a display area. The project also includes replacement of the existing single lane travel trailer sanitary dumping station with a three lane station and replacement of the septic system for the office and dump station with a new and larger system. The well is necessary to meet the expected needs of the improved contact station.

The proposed well is expected to be constructed using conventional well drilling methods. The well will be completed in unconsolidated glacial overburden consisting of a mixture of sand, sand and gravel and clay. It is anticipated that the well will be drilled to approximately 110 feet in depth, with permanent steel well casing installed to approximately 107 feet. A 36 inch long stainless steel well screen will also be installed along with a submersible pump with a pumping capacity of 18 gallons per minute. The proposed well construction activity will take place within the overall construction area for the contact station. Measures will be implemented to ensure that erosion and surface water runoff from the construction site is minimized.

Clear Lake is a deep, soft water seepage lake with slightly acidic and very clear water. It has a surface area of 846 acres, 13.8 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of 95 feet. Lake bed materials consist mainly of sand with significant areas of gravel and rubble. Clear Lake contains moderate populations of walleye, smallmouth bass and largemouth bass, along with muskellunge, northern pike,

yellow perch, rock bass, bluegill, black crappie, creek chub, cisco, pumpkinseed, white sucker and yellow bullhead. The entire shoreline is upland, dominated by hardwood forest vegetation. There is very little development associated with Clear Lake. The only facilities on the lake are a state public campground, public picnic area, a swimming beach, twelve private dwellings and a summer camp for girls.

The Master Plan and EIS on which this supplement is based can be found at:

http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/NHAL/

The EIS does not specifically mention the proposed well. The Clear Lake nature center and contact station are addressed in the EIS and Master Plan in the following sections:

1. Master Plan, Ch. 2., p. 142 - The fifth bullet item under the Short Term Objectives: "Provide opportunities for high quality, modern, intensive recreational uses featuring modern camping and day uses and nature interpretation/education."

2. Master Plan, Ch. 2, p. 143 - Recreation Management: "Maintain the existing array of recreational facilities and expand or redevelop facilities within the area as described in the property-wide recreation management plan and consistent with the standards for a Type 4 Recreational Use Setting and modern campgrounds and day use areas in NR 44.07(7)(e)5b."

3. Master Plan, Ch. 2, p. 167 - Education and Interpretation: "At the Clear Lake campground the delivery of educational programs will be improved by the construction of a new summer-use interpretive shelter building."

4. EIS, Ch. 2, p. 34, Table 2.5:

"Alternative B All facilities proposed in Alternative A plus:

A new disabled access interpretive trail and amphitheater at the Crystal-Muskie nature center

A new small nature center at Clear Lake Campground

A new, year-round visitor center at the State Forest Headquarters"

"Alternative D All facilities proposed in Alternatives in A, B, and C plus:

Upgrade the Crystal-Muskie Nature Center facilities to include flush toilets and hot/cold water

Build the proposed Clear Lake Nature Center to the same level as the Crystal-Muskie Center

Add additional disabled trails in several locations."

The existing environment for the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest can be found in Chapter 3 of the Master Plan:

http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/NHAL/pdfs/final/NHALPlan-Chap3.pdf

Impacts from construction-related aspects of the plan are analyzed in Chapter 1 of the EIS:

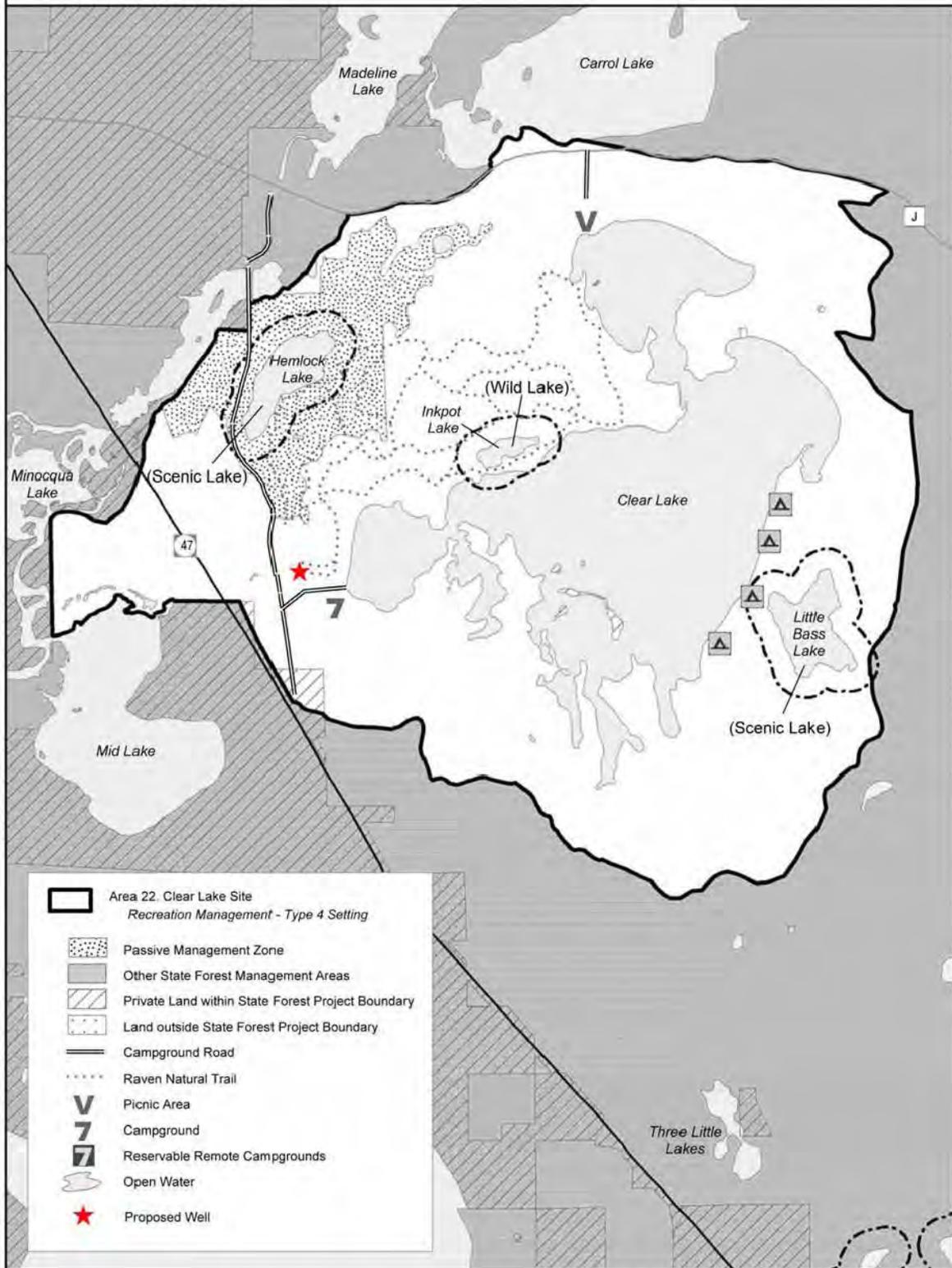
http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/NHAL/pdfs/final/NAHLEIS-Chap1.pdf

DNR EVALUATION

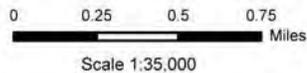
Discuss the adverse and beneficial impacts not addressed in the original EIS that would result from the supplemented action, and any additional alternatives considered.

The proposed well will be located about 900 feet west of Clear Lake. The average daily water use will be about 7,000 gallons per day and the maximum daily water use is approximately 26,000 gallons per day. If the well were pumped continuously for an entire year at its full pumping capacity, the volume of water withdrawal would be about 30 acre-feet of water. By comparison, the volume of Clear Lake is over 26,000 acre-feet. In addition, analysis of the extent of groundwater drawdown as a result of continuous pumping of the well indicates that a maximum decline in groundwater level of approximately 0.15 feet in the vicinity of the lake. These conservative analyses assume continuous year-round pumping and that all of the water pumped from the well is permanently lost from the watershed. The analyses demonstrate that the hydrologic impact of the well on Clear Lake will be negligible.

Map 52. Area 22 - Clear Lake



Northern Highland - American Legion
State Forest
Master Plan



The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access.



DECISION (This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate authority)

In accordance with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Adm. Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

Complete either A or B below:

A. EIS Process Not Required



The attached analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion, therefore, an additional environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department.

B. Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process



The proposal is of such magnitude and complexity with such considerable and important impacts on the quality of the human environment that it constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Signature of Evaluator 	Date Signed 03/05/2008
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Number of responses to news release or other notice (if provided): 0

Certified to be in compliance with WEPA Environmental Analysis and Liaison Program Staff 	Date Signed 03/05/2008
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NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe you have a right to challenge this decision made by the Department, you should know that Wisconsin statutes, administrative codes and case law establish time periods and requirements for reviewing Department decisions.

To seek judicial review of the Department's decision, ss. 227.52 and 227.53, Stats., establish criteria for filing a petition for judicial review. Such a petition shall be filed with the appropriate circuit court and shall be served on the Department. The petition shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.