

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DECISION ON THE NEED  
FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Form 1600-1

Rev. 6-2010

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Region or Bureau Bureau of Drinking Water & Groundwater
Type List Designation IV

NOTE TO REVIEWERS: This document is a DNR environmental analysis that evaluates probable environmental effects and decides on the need for an EIS. The attached analysis includes a description of the proposal and the affected environment. The DNR has reviewed the attachments and, upon certification, accepts responsibility for their scope and content to fulfill requirements in s. NR 150.22, Wis. Adm. Code. Your comments should address completeness, accuracy or the EIS decision. For your comments to be considered, they must be received by the contact person before 4:30 p.m., May 16, 2011.

Contact Person: Lawrence Lynch  Lawrence.Lynch@wi.gov
Title: Hydrogeologist
Address: 101 South Webster St., Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707
Telephone Number (608)267-7553

Applicant: Darrell Long

Address: 1134 W. Robb Avenue, Lima Ohio, 45801

Title of Proposal: High Capacity Well – Truck Fill Well

Location: County: Crawford City/Town/Village: Town of Utica

Township Range Section(s): Section 22 T10N R5W

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PROJECT SUMMARY

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1. Brief overview of the proposal including the DNR action (include cost and funding source if public funds involved)

The applicant has proposed to construct a high capacity well on his property in the Town of Utica approximately 1.7 miles northwest of the Village of Mount Sterling. The well would be constructed to a depth of approximately 300 feet and would be equipped with a submersible pump capable of pumping 500 gallons per minute. The well would be constructed on the west side of an existing driveway, and would be about 300 feet north of State Highway 171.

2. Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)

The well would be used to supply water to any nearby water users that may need an emergency supply of water, such as local public water supplies, fire departments and farming operations. In addition, the well may also be used for emergency water bottling purposes if there were to be an emergency situation that necessitated provision of bottled water. It would not be used for commercial water bottling purposes.

3. Authorities and Approvals (list local, state and federal permits or approvals required)

In order to construct the well, the owner must obtain a high capacity well approval under Chapter NR 812, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Chapter NR 812 specifies detailed well construction and operation requirements. In addition, because the

proposed well location is within 1,200 feet of a trout stream, the well must also be reviewed under Ch. NR 820, Wis. Adm. Code, to determine whether it could result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The applicant has obtained a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation authorizing construction activities necessary to widen the existing driveway off of State Highway 171.

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PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES (more fully describe the proposal)

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4. Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include relevant quantities - sq. ft., cu. yard, etc.)

The proposed well is expected to be constructed using conventional well drilling equipment and methods. The well will be completed in sandstone. It is anticipated that the well will be drilled to a depth of about 300 feet with permanent 10' diameter steel casing installed to a depth of approximately 126 feet. The remaining depth of the drillhole would be an open hole in the bedrock. Access to the well would be via an existing driveway off of State Highway 171. A portion of the existing driveway would also be expanded to accommodate truck access to the well site

5. Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include relevant quantities - cfs, acre feet, MGD, etc.)

The application specifies that groundwater would be removed at a maximum daily pumping rate of 500,000 gallons per day. It also indicates that the average daily pumping rate will be 160,000 gallons per day.

6. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures (include size of facilities, road miles, etc.)

It is not anticipated that any new buildings or structures would be constructed. A portion of the existing driveway would be expanded to accommodate truck access to the well site. The existing driveway would be widened to an ultimate width of approximately 32 feet. Additional electrical supply would also be extended from the Highway 171 right-of-way onto the property.

7. Emissions and Discharges (include relevant characteristics and quantities)

None

8. Other Changes

None

9. Identify the maps, plans and other descriptive material attached

Figure 1 - Overview Map

Figure 2 - Topographic Map

Figure 3 - Plat map

Figure 4 - Air Photo of Well Site Vicinity

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AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT (describe existing features that may be affected by proposal)

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10. Information Based On (check all that apply):

Literature/correspondence (specify major sources)

Application for High Capacity Well Approval  
Wisconsin Well Construction Reports  
Crawford County Comprehensive Planning Document

*WisLith: A Digital Lithologic and Stratigraphic Database of Wisconsin Geology, Open File Report 2003-05, Wisconsin*

Geological & Natural History Survey  
Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey Open File Report 1998-08, *Hydrologic Assessment of the Kickapoo Watershed, Southwestern Wisconsin*

Personal Contacts (list in item 26)

Field Analysis By:  Author  Other (list in item 26)

Past Experience With Site By:  Other (list in item 26)

11. Physical Environment (topography, soils, water, air)

The proposed well site is located on an approximately 45 acre parcel owned by Darrell Long. The parcel is bisected by the boundary line separating the Town of Freeman and the Town of Utica. The parcel is located within the SW ¼ of Section 22 and the SE ¼ of Section 21 T10N R5E. The proposed well would be located on the eastern half of the property. There is an existing driveway onto the property from State Highway 171 leading to a house and a small outbuilding. There is an existing 10 gallon-per-minute well on the property providing potable water to the house.

The proposed well site is within the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin. The landscape consists primarily of numerous steep-sided valleys with intervening broad, flat ridges. Topographic relief from the valley bottoms to the ridge tops is typically several hundred feet. Soils consist primarily of thin deposits of clay-rich loams and are characterized as being of low to medium permeability. In the vicinity of the proposed well and throughout most of Crawford County, the depth to bedrock is normally less than 10 feet.

Bedrock in the area consists of layers of Ordovician age sandstones and carbonate rocks overlying Cambrian sandstones, siltstones and dolomite. In the vicinity of Mount Sterling, the ridges are usually capped with an irregular layer of St. Peter Sandstone overlying between 170 to 230 feet of Oneota Dolomite. The stream valleys in the area are cut into underlying Cambrian bedrock units consisting of sandstone, siltstone and dolomite of the Trempealeau Group and sandstone from the Tunnel City Group.

Groundwater is the sole source of drinking water in the area of the proposed well. The nearest municipal public water supply well is located in the Village of Mount Sterling, about 1.7 miles southeast of the proposed well site. The Mount Sterling public well is over 600 feet deep and produces water from the Cambrian Wonewoc formation. There are a number of private water supply wells within 1 mile of the proposed well and, based on information available from well construction records, most of these wells also are completed in the Cambrian sandstone formations.

Groundwater flow systems in the area are influenced by the unique topography. Local groundwater flow systems that contribute flow to springs and streams closely coincide to the surface watersheds. Local flow systems are generally situated in the upper bedrock units comprising the hills and ridges (St. Peter sandstone and Oneota dolomite) while the regional flow system is present in the deeper (Cambrian) bedrock units underlying in the valley bottoms. The steeply incised landscape and layered bedrock geology also leads to groundwater discharge in the form of frequent springs in the area. The springs tend to emerge along the valley slopes and are related to heterogeneities in the flow system, such as contacts between different stratigraphic units, seams of lower permeability material within one unit, or fractures in the bedrock. Springs are quite common in the area and contribute significant flow to streams, with most springs flowing at a rate of less than 0.25 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The surface water flow system is also strongly influenced by the regional topography and is reflected by main stream segments in the valley floors with numerous tributary streams between the steep ridges. The proposed well is within the watershed of the North Branch of Copper Creek and is located about 550 feet north of the stream. Flow in the North Branch of Copper Creek, as determined by a stream flow measurement made in March 2011, was 1.76 cfs. In addition, a tributary to the N. Branch of Copper Creek runs through the well site property and is located about 100 feet east of the proposed well. In March 2011, flow in the tributary stream was measured at a rate of 1.02 cfs. Flow in the tributary originates from a series of springs emerging at discrete hillside locations along the length of the tributary's channel. One such spring is located on the well site property approximately 350 feet southeast of the proposed well. The spring feeds a small pond (0.1 acres). Water flows from the pond at a rate estimated to be 0.3 cfs and enters the tributary via a 12-inch culvert on the east bank of the stream about 75 feet north of State Highway 171.

The North Branch of Copper Creek is part of the Copper Creek Watershed and lies within the Mississippi River basin. The North Branch of Copper Creek flows in a westerly direction for 3.8 miles before reaching Copper Creek. Estimated base flow of the stream is approximately 1.0 cfs. The stream has a gradient of 42 feet per mile and has been designated as a Class I trout stream. This classification was upgraded from Class II in 2001 after a stream survey indicated a wild, self-sustaining naturally reproducing trout population. Brown trout, rainbow trout, and forage species were documented in a fishery survey completed in 1965. A more recent survey completed in 2005 documented over 375 Brown Trout plus Brook Stickleback and Fantail Darter. The stream bottom consists primarily of 50% sand with lesser amounts of gravel, cobbles and boulders. Brook trout, Wisconsin's only native trout is also present in the watershed.

12. Biological Environment (dominant aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species and habitats including threatened/endangered resources; wetland amounts, types and hydraulic value)

The North Branch of Copper Creek is classified as a Class I Trout Stream. Trout have also been observed in the tributary stream flowing along the eastern edge of the well site property. There are no records of threatened or endangered resources within 2 miles of the proposed well site and there are also no mapped wetlands in the area. The grassy stream terrace immediately adjacent to the North Branch of Copper Creek has soils that are indicative of a wetland environment but has not been mapped as a wetland.

13. Cultural Environment

- a. Land use (dominant features and uses including zoning if applicable)

Land in the northwestern part of Crawford County is predominantly undeveloped and is split between agricultural uses and forest land. The ridge tops and broad valley bottoms are generally used for agricultural purposes while the steep hill slopes are forested. Over 95% of the land within the Town of Utica and over 92% of the non-Mississippi River lands within the Town of Freeman are agricultural or forested.

- b. Social/Economic (including ethnic and cultural groups)

The area in the vicinity of the proposed well site is predominantly rural. The nearest incorporated area is the Village of Mount Sterling, located about 1.7 miles southeast of the proposed well site. The population of Crawford County has been gradually increasing over the past thirty years and is projected to continue to grow by another roughly 4% over the next 20 years. Population in the Town of Utica decreased about 20% from 1970 through 2000 while population in the Town of Freeman increased about 6% over the same time period. The largest employment sectors in Crawford County are Production, Transportation and Material Moving (25.5%), Management, Professional and Related Occupations (23.5%), Sales & Office Occupations (21%) and Service Occupations (18.1%). Agricultural and forestry related employment in Crawford County accounts for approximately 3% of the work force.

- c. Archaeological/Historical

There are no features of archaeological or historical significance within the area to be disturbed by the well construction activity. There is an old building on the well site property that is currently used by the owner for storage purposes. The building is likely well over 100 years old but it is outside of the area of proposed disturbance.

14. Other Special Resources (e.g., State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands)

None

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**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (probable adverse and beneficial impacts including indirect and secondary impacts)**

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15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

Construction of the well will result in disturbance of an area less than 0.10 acres in size. Surface vegetation may be cleared in order to provide adequate access for the drilling rig. Construction activities ancillary to the well construction, including widening of the existing driveway and installation of supplemental electrical service will also result in limited surface disturbance along the existing driveway. Clearing and construction activities could result in soil erosion and deposition of sediment on property owned by the applicant and, if not controlled, could lead to runoff into the tributary to the North Branch of Copper Creek.

The proposed well would intercept groundwater that would otherwise discharge to the adjacent segment of the North Branch of Copper Creek and springs that discharge directly to the stream. The maximum impact to the North Branch of Copper Creek and springs that contribute directly to the stream would occur if the well were operated at full capacity for extended periods of time. In the worst case, continuous pumping of the well at the maximum pumping capacity over an extended period of time could lead to a reduction in stream flow in the North Branch of Copper Creek of approximately 0.7 cfs. Depending on the flow conditions in the North Branch of Copper Creek this reduction could represent up to nearly 40% reduction in flow in the stream segment nearest to the well property. Impacts would diminish downstream of the proposed well as additional springs and tributaries contribute flow to the stream.

The anticipated sporadic operation of the well at the proposed average daily withdrawal rate should not result in significant flow reductions in the stream, although operation of the well could exacerbate low flow conditions slightly.

Impacts to the nearby tributary stream that flows through the well site property and the springs along the tributary are expected to be minor. This is the case because stratigraphic units contributing groundwater flow to the tributary are at elevations significantly above the anticipated casing level of the proposed well. By constructing the well with cemented casing extended to a depth of at least 125 feet, water in the very shallow local groundwater flow system which discharges to the tributary and hillside springs should be effectively isolated from well-induced impacts.

16. Biological (including impacts to threatened/endangered resources)

Possible impacts to the tributary to the North Branch of Copper Creek could result in adverse impacts to the trout population in the tributary and the North Branch of Copper Creek. Deposition of sediment in the stream would temporarily interfere with the ability of the trout to successfully feed and could cover spawning areas. Reduced groundwater flow into the stream could lead to higher water temperatures and lower dissolved oxygen in stream, conditions that are not favorable to trout development. In addition, if flow is substantially lowered during normal periods of low flow, it may become impossible for trout to move freely from one area of the stream to another in search of more conducive temperature, flow and feeding conditions.

17. Cultural

a. Land Use (including indirect and secondary impacts)

The proposed activity will not result in significant impacts on land use in the area. If the well is used as an alternate water supply there would be some minor truck traffic on Highway 171 and increased number of vehicles entering and exiting the highway at the driveway to the property.

b. Social/Economic (including ethnic and cultural groups, and zoning if applicable)

Construction and operation of the well will have minimal social and economic impacts. Water users in the area, including public water systems, fire departments and farmers may have an alternative source of available water in times when their normal water supply may be inoperable. This could have a limited positive benefit in that it may relieve negative impacts related to disruption of water service for those users. In addition, fire departments may find the proposed well to be particularly attractive due to the relatively high pumping capacity of the proposed well which will allow for much shorter filling time compared to some other sources in the area.

c. Archaeological/Historical

None

18. Other Special Resources (e.g., State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands)

The proposed activity will not have any impacts on any special resources.

19. Summary of Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided (more fully discussed in 15 through 18)

Construction activities related to well installation and expansion of the existing driveway will result in minor land disturbance. Erosion and deposition of sediment into the tributary stream could result. Groundwater that is pumped from the proposed well would cause a reduction in groundwater discharge to the nearby stream segment of the North Branch of Copper Creek. The

severity of the resultant reduction in stream flow would depend on the frequency at which the well is operated. If the well is only operated sporadically, minimal impacts will occur, but if the well is operated at full capacity over an extended period of time, significant flow reductions could result. In this case, secondary impacts to trout in the North Branch of Copper Creek would be directly related to flow reduction as a result of well operation.

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DNR EVALUATION OF PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE (complete each item)

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20. Environmental Effects and Their Significance

- a. Discuss which of the primary and secondary environmental effects listed in the environmental consequences section are long-term or short-term.

Construction-related impacts including land disturbance, soil erosion and sedimentation are short term in nature and limited in areal extent. Impacts related to reduction in flow in the adjacent segment of the North Branch of Copper Creek could be long-term in nature if the well is operated on a frequent basis throughout the year and over multiple years.

- b. Discuss which of the primary and secondary environmental effects listed in the environmental consequences section are effects on geographically scarce resources (e.g. historic or cultural resources, scenic and recreational resources, prime agricultural lands, threatened or endangered resources or ecologically sensitive areas).

The proposed well would not result in impacts to any geographically scarce resources. Reductions to stream flow and resultant impacts to trout populations in the segment of the North Branch of Copper Creek near the proposed well could have minor impacts on the value of the stream for trout fishing purposes. However, other segments of the stream and other streams in the area will be unaffected by operation of the well and will continue to offer trout fishing opportunities.

- c. Discuss the extent to which the primary and secondary environmental effects listed in the environmental consequences section are reversible.

None of the impacts associated with operation of the proposed well are irreversible. If pumping ceased, the groundwater inflow to the North Branch of Copper Creek would return to rates that existed prior to construction and operation of the well. If a decrease in streamflow had negatively impacted trout populations in the adjacent segment of the stream, it is expected that trout would repopulate the stream as groundwater inflows returned to pre-pumping levels.

21. Significance of Cumulative Effects

Discuss the significance of reasonably anticipated cumulative effects on the environment (and energy usage, if applicable). Consider cumulative effects from repeated projects of the same type. Would the cumulative effects be more severe or substantially change the quality of the environment? Include other activities planned or proposed in the area that would compound effects on the environment.

There are no significant cumulative effects expected as a result of the proposed well construction and operation. It is unlikely that similar projects would be proposed in the area.

22. Significance of Risk

- a. Explain the significance of any unknowns that create substantial uncertainty in predicting effects on the quality of the environment. What additional studies or analysis would eliminate or reduce these unknowns?

Groundwater flow conditions in the vicinity of the proposed well are inferred from information gathered in well construction reports, research in similar areas and general geologic reports. The degree of connection of the surface water resources in the area is also inferred from work in areas of similar geologic characteristics. If the groundwater flow conditions are not as postulated, impacts to the surface waters could be more or less severe depending on the actual degree and nature hydrologic connection. However, it is unlikely the impacts would be substantially more severe than those discussed in section 15. Collection of additional field data, particularly coupled stream flow and groundwater data, completion of an aquifer pumping test and construction of a groundwater model to analyze various well construction configurations and pumping scenarios would lead to a more definitive analysis of the impacts.

- b. Explain the environmental significance of reasonably anticipated operating problems such as malfunctions, spills, fires or other hazards (particularly those relating to health or safety). Consider reasonable detection and emergency response, and discuss the potential for these hazards.

There is little potential for operational problems with this activity. There is a minor likelihood that well controls could fail and that uncontrolled water discharge could occur. If this happened, water would flow overland to the tributary stream on the eastern edge of the well site property. Additionally, it is possible that trucks used to transport water could experience some sort of failure including fuel spills or other incidents. Standard spill control and containment measures would be implemented to control any spills.

23. Significance of Precedent

Would a decision on this proposal influence future decisions or foreclose options that may additionally affect the quality of the environment? Describe any conflicts the proposal has with plans or policy of local, state or federal agencies. Explain the significance of each.

Issuance of the well approval would have little to no precedent-setting significance.

24. Significance of Controversy Over Environmental Effects

Discuss the effects on the quality of the environment, including socio-economic effects, that are (or are likely to be) highly controversial, and summarize the controversy.

It is not expected that this well proposal will generate significant controversy. However, if the well were eventually to be used for commercial water bottling purposes, substantial controversy could follow. Water bottling facilities have historically been very controversial for a number of reasons including diminishment of groundwater and surface water resources, economic reasons and issues related to disposal of water bottles. Such use of the well would necessitate additional review and approval by the Department.

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ALTERNATIVES

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25. Briefly describe the impacts of no action and of alternatives that would decrease or eliminate adverse environmental effects. (Refer to any appropriate alternatives from the applicant or anyone else.)

If the Department denies the application for approval of the high capacity well the owner would be denied the opportunity to sell water to nearby water users. In addition, it is possible that some of those users may at some time be without an alternative supply of water if their water supply were to be temporarily unavailable. If the well is not approved, the natural flow system in the area would not be disturbed.

As an alternative to the proposed well construction, a well could be constructed with casing extended to depth greater than 126 feet. If the casing were set to a significantly deeper level, potential impacts to the North Branch of Copper Creek would be expected to be less severe. Similarly, operational restrictions could also be imposed on the well to ensure that the well does not cause significant impacts to the stream. Examples of such conditions include placing a monthly limit on well pumpage or limiting the number of consecutive days of operation.

Implementation of best practices related to construction site erosion control measures would reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation during construction activities. Placement of silt fence, straw bales or other physical barriers to erosion and sedimentation would limit impacts to the tributary stream which flows across the well site property.

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SUMMARY OF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

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26. List agencies, citizen groups and individuals contacted regarding the project (include DNR personnel and title) and summarize public contacts, completed or proposed).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
11/19/10	Jordan Weeks, DNR Fishery Biologist	Trout stream concerns

12/7/10	Jordan Weeks, DNR	Site Visit – trout stream issues
12/8/10	Ken Bradbury, Hydrogeologist WGNHS	Geology and springs conceptual flow
2/23/11	Kevin Mauel, DNR Fisheries Technician, Beth Stuhr, DNR Fisheries Technician/Biologist	Site Visit - stream flow measurements
2/23/11	Rachel Greve, DNR Hydrogeologist	Site Visit - spring flow estimates, geology and hydrogeology
4/14/11	Bob Bird, Crawford Cty. Land Conservation Dept.	Local land conservation issues

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PRELIMINARY DECISION

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

The Department has made a preliminary determination that the Environmental Impact Statement process will not be required for this action/project. This recommendation does not represent approval from other DNR sections which may also require a review of the action/project.

Signature of Evaluator	Date Signed
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FINAL DECISION

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The public review process has been completed. The Department received and fully considered responses to the news release or other notice.

Pursuant to s. NR 150.22(2)a., Wis. Adm. Code, 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, and therefore the environmental impact statement process is not required prior to final action by the Department.

The Department has determined that it has complied with s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code. This decision does not represent approval from other DNR sections which may also require a review of the action/project.

Signature of Environmental Analysis Program Staff	Date Signed
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NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

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If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with section NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with section NR 2.03, Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30 day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

# Darrell Long Well Location - Overview Map



## Legend

- Major Highways
  - Interstate
  - State Highway
  - U.S. Highways
  - County Roads
- 24K County Boundaries
- 100K Open Water
- Cities and Villages
  - Village
  - City



Map created on Apr 27, 2011



Wisconsin National Inventory (2002) maps show geographic representations of the type, size and location of wetlands in Wisconsin. These maps have been prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery in conjunction with air photos, topographic maps, previous wetland inventories and field work. State statutes define a wetland as "an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough in the course of recurring seasons to support aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions." The principal focus of the 2002 is to produce wetland maps that are a geographic representation of the type, size and location of wetlands in Wisconsin. Within the context, the objective of the 2002 is to provide comprehensive wetland information for the State. It is not intended to provide information on the location, type, size or other characteristics of wetlands that are not shown on the 2002 maps. The 2002 maps are the product of a complex process and are intended to be used as a guide for planning purposes. There is no attempt to define the limits of jurisdiction of any Federal, State, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, State, or local agencies concerning applicable agency regulatory programs and jurisdiction that may affect such activities. The most accurate method of determining the legal extent of a wetland for Federal or State regulatory is a field delineation of the wetland boundary by a professional trained in wetland delineation techniques.

Figure 1 – Overview Map

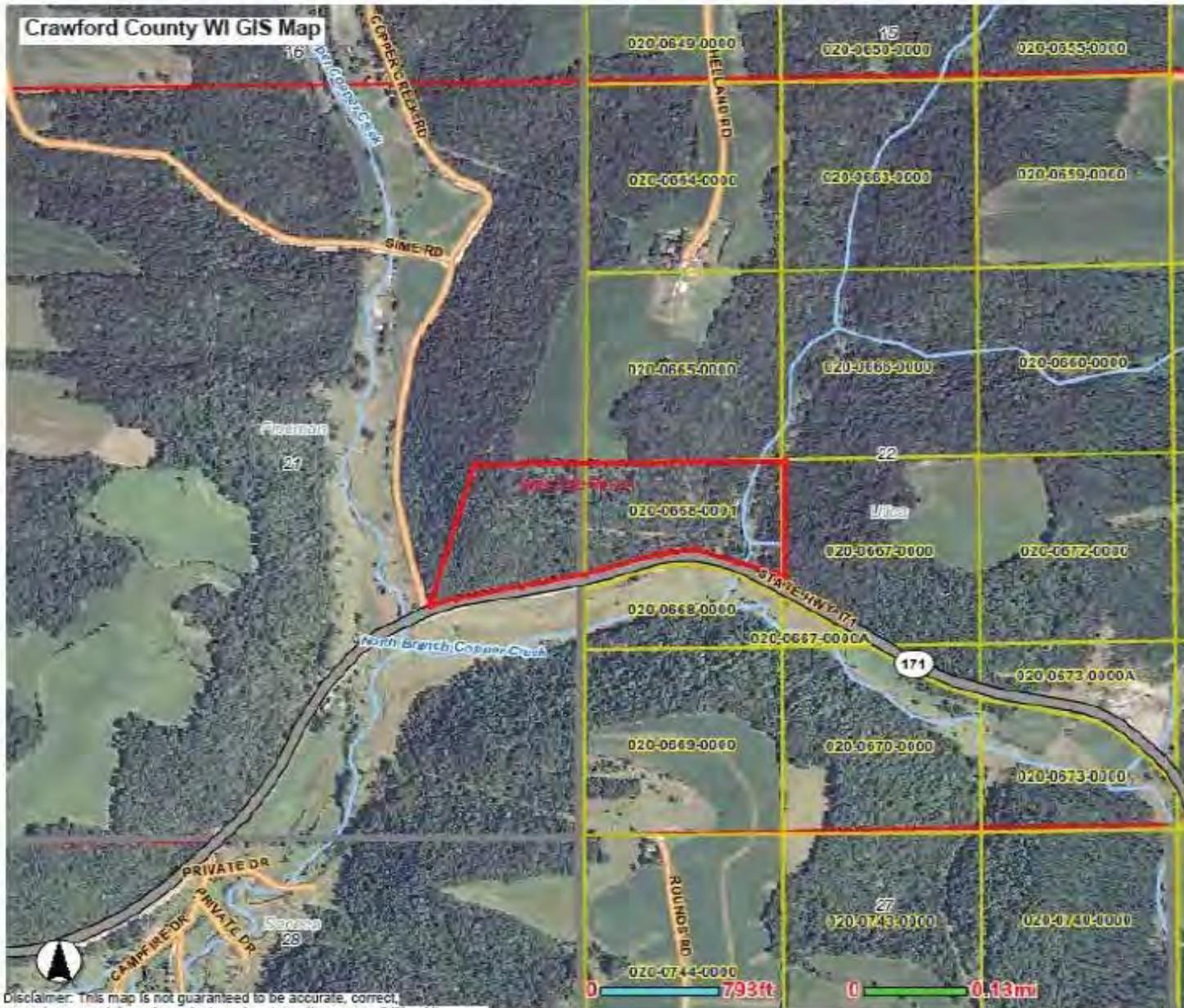


Figure 2 – Approximate Well Site Parcel Boundary







# Wisconsin DNR News Release

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## Public comment taken on high capacity well proposed for Town of Utica

News Release Published: May 3, 2011 by the [Central Office](#)

Contact(s): Larry Lynch (608) 267-7553

MADISON - People are invited to comment on results of an environmental assessment of a proposed high-capacity potable water well in the Town of Utica in Crawford County. Written, e-mail or oral comments on the environmental assessment may be submitted through May 16, 2011.

Darrell Long has proposed to construct a high capacity well on his property, which is about 1.7 miles northwest of the Village of Mount Sterling. The well would be used to supply water to any nearby water users that may need an emergency supply of water, such as local public water supplies, fire departments and farming operations. In addition, the well also might be used for emergency water bottling purposes if there were to be an emergency situation that necessitated providing bottled water. It would not be used for commercial water bottling purposes.

The well would be equipped with a submersible pump capable of pumping 500 gallons per minute and would be constructed on the west side of an existing driveway, about 300 feet north of State Highway 171.

Because the proposed well is within 1,200 feet of a trout stream, the North Branch of Copper Creek, the proposed well had to be reviewed under Natural Resources Chapter 820, Wis. Adm. Code, to determine whether significant adverse environmental impacts could result from

its construction and operation. DNR's environmental analysis of the proposed well concludes that significant adverse impacts to the trout stream will not occur so DNR has made a preliminary determination that an additional environmental impact statement will not be required.

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](mailto:lawrence.lynch@wisconsin.gov). The environmental assessment is also available on the DNR's website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/eis/eis.htm>. Comments on the analysis and DNR's preliminary determination can be submitted to Lawrence Lynch at the above listed mailing address, e-mail, or via telephone.

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