

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

Form 1600-8

Rev. 6-2001

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Region or Bureau: Bureau of Watershed Management

Type List Designation: 150.03 (6)(b).5.a

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 11, 2007.

Contact Person: Tom Gilbert

Title: Wastewater Facility Planning Coordinator

Address: WDNR, PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Telephone Number
(608) 267-7628

E-mail Address
tom.gilbert@dnr.state.wi.us

Applicant: Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)

Title of Proposal: Amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan – Greater Kenosha Area / Town of Somers

Location: As shown in **Attachment 1** there are two areas proposed to be added to the Greater Kenosha Sewer Service Area (SSA), as follows:

Area A: The amendment request as originally submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in January 2006 included "Area A" consisting 6.8 square miles (4,352 acres), generally located between IH 94 and Green Bay Avenue (STH 31), and north of CTH S. In July of 2006, SEWRPC requested approval of the eastern portion (generally located east of CTH EA) of this service area, and the Department approval for this was issued on July 18, 2006 (see **Attachment 2**). The remaining area of Area A is subject to this EA analysis and contains approximately 5.5 square miles (3,526 acres), including 396 acres of environmentally significant land, 252 acres of existing urban development and 2,611 acres of agricultural land that is planned for future urban use.

Area B: Area B encompasses about 0.4 square miles (256 acres), generally located south of CTH A and west of Pike Creek. It contains 49 acres of environmentally significant lands, 22 acres of existing urban land, and 215 acres of agricultural land which is anticipated to be developed for residential use.

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Overview of the proposal:

The basic purpose of the proposed amendment is to include within the planned Greater Kenosha sewer service area certain lands located immediately adjacent to, but outside, the currently adopted sewer service area. The proposed expansion is a result of a recent boundary agreement between the City of Kenosha and the Town Of Somers.

Sewer service area plans serve as a basis for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) approval of state and federal funding for the planning and construction of wastewater treatment and sewerage facilities. They also

serve as a basis for WDNR approval of locally proposed sanitary sewer extensions and Department of Commerce approval of private interceptor or certain building sewers. In addition, because the plans also identify environmentally sensitive areas, they serve as a guide for environmental permit decisions.

The sewer service area plans are intended to be an important planning and development guide for local communities. The plans provide the following functions:

- Identify wastewater treatment and collection system needs for sewer service areas for a 20 or more year planning period;
- Forecast the amount and location of future urban development areas;
- Identify environmentally sensitive areas which should be preserved;
- Contain land use development forecasts and recommendations for implementing wastewater treatment and collection plans for individual sewer service areas;
- Inform developers and property owners of community policies and restrictions before development is proposed;
- Establish "holding tank" service area for isolated and rural special uses.

The proposed amended SSA plan is essentially a planning document to serve as a guide for development and sewerage system expansion. As future specific projects for development or sewerage system expansion are proposed they will be subject to state, federal and local regulations and permitting processes. These processes may include specific review and analysis under the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) in accordance with chapter NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

2. Documents, plans, studies or memos on which this DNR review is based:

Amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan – Greater Kenosha Area / Town of Somers as adopted by the Southern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, December 2005.

A supplemental letter from SEWRPC, dated June 29th, 2006.

Facility Plan for the Pike Creek Interceptor Sewer – Town of Somers, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. By Crispell-Synder, Inc, June 2005

3. Sewer Service Area Descriptions

The complete amendment area (Both areas A, B, and the previously approved eastern portion of A) is expected to accommodate a population of 7,400 persons under full development conditions projected by the year 2035. The buildout population of the expanded service area – that is, the population which could be accommodated upon full development of the Greater Kenosha Area SSA – is estimated to be 164,600 persons. Under a recently completed year 2035 regional land use plan, the year 2035 population projection of the Greater Kenosha Area SSA would range from 155,800 to 179,300 persons. So the buildout population falls within the projection range envisioned under the 2035 plan.

Under the Town of Somers land use plan, development in the amendment areas would consist of urban-density residential, commercial, and industrial uses as well as supporting government-institutional and recreational uses. The regional water quality management plan recommends that such new urban development be served by centralized public sanitary sewer and water supply service.

The amendment area includes land located east of the subcontinental divide (approximately along 100th Avenue) that is within the Pike River Watershed draining to Lake Michigan, and land west of the divide, within the Des Plaines River Watershed, draining to the Mississippi River drainage system.

4. Environmental Effects and Their Significance

a. Primary and secondary environmental effects:

Description of Water Resources

The eastern portion of Area A and Area B are located in the Pike River watershed and in the Pike Creek sub-basin, which drains to Lake Michigan. In combination, approximately 3 miles of the upper reaches of Pike Creek are located in the amendment areas.

The water quality of the 42 miles of rivers and streams in the Pike River Watershed ranges from severely degraded to good. Twenty-one miles of perennial streams (50%) are currently considered to support a Warm Water Sport Fish community. Eight miles (19%) support a Warm Water Forage Fish community. About eight miles (18%) of streams in the basin support a Limited Forage Fish community. Six miles of streams in the Pike River Watershed are listed on the state's impaired waters (303(d)) list. These streams are the Upper Pike River and its tributary, Waxdale Creek, in the Town of Sturtevant.

Fish species found in the Pike River Watershed include yellow perch, southern redbelly dace, blacknose dace, bluegill, and largemouth bass. In addition, steelhead salmon, brown, and brook trout are present due to Lake Michigan stocking efforts. Tolerant fish species found in the watershed include the creek chub, fathead minnow, and green sunfish.¹

The western portion of the Area A amendment area includes an approximate 2 mile length of Kilbourn Ditch which is part of the Des Plaines River watershed. There are approximately 85 miles of streams in the watershed. There are no streams on the state's 303(d) list. Due to heavy agricultural use, some stream reaches are affected by increased nutrient loads, increased sediment loads, drain tile impacts and historic ditching.²

1 - The State of the Root-Pike River Basin May, 2002 PUBL WT-700-2002 WDNR

2- The State of the Southeast Fox River Basin, February 2002, PUBL WT-701-2002- WDNR

Point Source Impacts

Population growth and commercial/industrial development will increase loadings to the City of Kenosha sewage treatment facility. This facility discharges effluent to Lake Michigan. The facility was expanded in 1994 and has a capacity to treat 28 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater on an average annual basis. The facility currently has about 5 mgd of available reserve capacity and this is sufficient to accept and treat flows from the proposed amendment areas. However, if the complete Greater Kenosha Area SSA were to become fully developed then the flows would be approximately 33 to 35 mgd. Thus it is expected that facility capacity may be exceeded before 2020, but based on current trends it is expected the existing facility should be adequate at least through the year 2010.

The ongoing status of wastewater facilities are periodically evaluated by the owner municipalities and the Department of Natural Resources when WDNR discharge permits are reissued every five years. Discharge limitations necessary to protect water quality will be maintained in permits.

It is envisioned that the new development within the amendment areas would be served by centralized water supply. This water supply would be provided through the Kenosha Water Utility, which relies on Lake Michigan as its source. After the water supply is used, and converted to wastewater, it would be conveyed to the City Of Kenosha for treatment and return back to Lake Michigan.

Non-Point Source Impacts

Surface water runoff and pollutant runoff will increase with the forecast growth. The placement of roads, buildings and parking areas increase the amount of impervious area, and hence, more water runs off the land surface carrying organic and inorganic pollutants associated with these more intensive urban areas.

New developments will be required to comply with WDNR requirements regarding infiltration of runoff and water quality. The Town of Somers also requires that construction erosion control be provided and that erosion control plans be consistent with the WDNR *Wisconsin Construction Site Best Management Practice Handbook*. All developments in Kenosha County receive and are required to follow a stormwater management and construction erosion control checklist. The Kenosha County practices are consistent with Wisconsin stormwater management administrative rules, and WDNR conservation practice standards and best management practices. The County regulations also include special considerations for development in the Des Plaines River watershed with regard to control of peak rates of runoff from new development.

Groundwater

The centralized water and sewerage systems would not be expected to have a significant impact on groundwater quality or quantity. Groundwater impacts would be generally limited to those normally associated with the types of urban development expected in the area. If soils are suitable, new development would be required to implement stormwater infiltration measures set forth in Chapter NR 151 of the Wis. Administrative Code.

Increased development could have long-term impacts on the groundwater recharge. Conversion of rural land to urban uses may impact both the quality and quantity of groundwater. Dense populations in urbanized areas, for example, use large quantities of groundwater, and activities in these areas can pose significant threats to groundwater quality. Such activities include industrial and municipal waste disposal, road salting, storage of petroleum products and other hazardous materials, lawn care products, automobile maintenance, etc. In rural areas, less groundwater is used and different hazards to groundwater exist. Animal waste storage, on-site wastewater disposal, and fertilizer and pesticide applications are the primary pollution sources in these areas.

Other Effects

The cumulative effects of providing sewer and other urban services to commercial or industrial development in the amendment areas will include increased traffic, noise, air pollution, waste generation and potentially stormwater runoff. Existing land in agricultural production will be lost and the rural character of the area will be converted more to an urban character. This will also result in some loss of wildlife habitat. The development enabled by the SSA expansion is expected to enhance the local economy and provide jobs.

b. Effects on geographically scarce resources

The plan amendment will not result in any known effects on historic or cultural resources, recreational resources, threatened or endangered resources or ecologically sensitive areas. The "Pike River Low Woods" is a natural area located in Area B, but nearly all of the natural area is located within the primary environmental corridor along Pike Creek. Approximately 12 acres of the natural area is not within the primary environmental corridor designation because the area does not meet SEWRPC's size criteria for such designation. Primary environmental corridors must be at least 400 acres in size, at least two miles long, and at least 200 feet wide. Secondary environmental corridors must be at least 100 acres in size, and at least one mile long, unless serving to link primary corridors.

SEWRPC files indicate there are no sites or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places in either area. The Wisconsin Natural Heritage program database lists 12 species (1 fish and 11 plant) located in the vicinity of Amendment Area B that are either of special concern (5 species), endangered (4 species) or threatened (1 species). In the vicinity of the Amendment Area A there are 44 species (4 bird, 3 community, 1 crustacean, 4 fish, and 32 plant) that are either of special concern (27), endangered (6) or threatened (8).

Most of the service areas have not been surveyed for archaeological remains or threatened or endangered resources so it is possible future resources of this nature will be discovered. As specific development proposals occur they will be reviewed for potential effects on geographically scarce resources, and mitigation actions taken as appropriate.

There will be an effect due to the loss of prime farmland as rural areas are converted to urban uses. Loss of farmland may occur as a result of unsewered development as well as sewer development. Presuming the same overall population growth, the SSA plan would serve to promote more centralized development in existing urban areas and would therefore mitigate farmland losses as compared to unplanned growth or growth utilizing onsite wastewater systems.

c. Discuss the extent to which the primary and secondary environmental effects listed in the supporting documents are reversible.

The loss of prime farmland and other agricultural land and the benefit it provides for wildlife is considered irreversible. Other typical effects of urbanization including air and noise pollution, traffic congestion, and waste generation are considered relatively irreversible. Adverse surface water and groundwater effects are technically reversible but this may not be practically achievable based on specific local circumstances.

5. Significance of Cumulative Effects

The cumulative effects of providing sewer and other urban services to commercial or industrial development in the amendment areas will include increased traffic, noise, air pollution and potentially stormwater runoff. Existing land in agricultural production will be lost and the rural character of the area will be converted more to an urban character. The development enabled by the SSA expansion is expected to enhance the local economy and provide jobs.

If there were insufficient industrial and commercial lands within the sewer service area to meet the demand, it is possible that development would occur with onsite sewage disposal systems. Within the relatively high densities of urban area development sanitary sewer generally has less adverse impact on the environment than numerous onsite sewage systems, particularly as the onsite systems become old. The delineation and protection of environmentally sensitive areas through the sewer service area planning process is a positive secondary impact. The Facility Planning and Wastewater Permitting Programs oversee the maintenance of wastewater treatment standards and capacity. The Regional Water Quality Management Plan is intended to promote efficient, orderly and planned land use development patterns which allow for logical, cost-effective sewer development that incorporates sound environmental management practices.

6. Significance of Risk

The impacts to surface water, groundwater, and environmentally significant areas associated with urbanization will be controlled and mitigated to an extent such that it is anticipated water quality protection will be maintained. Sewerage systems have some potential for failure but emergency response provisions would be available and the reliability of sewer service is generally considered quite high and protective of public health and safety.

Wetlands and stream corridors represent the major features within the subject environmentally sensitive areas. All wetlands within the boundary of the proposed amendment to the sewer service area should be protected through either the implementation of the sewer service area plan itself or the Army Corps 404 wetland permit process, water quality standards for wetlands (Wis. Adm. Code, NR 103), and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 115, the shoreland wetland program for unincorporated areas which are administered locally by counties.

Stormwater management plan development is required for any construction site activity disturbing one or more acres of land, pursuant to Chapter NR 216, Wisconsin Administrative Code.

7. Significance of Precedent

The approval of the SSA plan amendment would provide direction for local community growth but does not foreclose future options. Sewer service area plans allow amendment procedures to respond to new information and demands relative to providing water quality protection in a development setting. Chapter NR 121 also requires periodic SSA Plan updates.

8. Significance of Controversy over Environmental Effects

A public hearing sponsored by SEWRPC and the Kenosha Water Utility was held on October 31, 2005 at the Kenosha Municipal Building. A summary of the plan amendment was provided. One individual spoke against including Area B in the amendment saying there has been no interest in developing that area. The Town of Somers indicated that there has been developer interest in Area B and this area is designated for future urban use in the long-range land use plan for the Town of Somers. The Kenosha Utility Board approved the sewer service area amendment following the hearing.

ALTERNATIVES

9. Alternatives that would decrease or eliminate adverse environmental effects

Alternatives to the expansion of the sewer service area (SSA) at this location would be to increase density within the current SSA, or to expand the SSA in another location, or to provide a lesser, or no, expansion of the SSA. The no expansion alternative would promote development using private onsite wastewater treatment systems. This might be implemented in some areas but the overall density of development and estimated wastewater flows are such that it has been determined to be cost-effective and environmentally beneficial to extend public sewer service. Onsite systems would discharge into local groundwater and potential groundwater impacts associated with this have not been specifically determined. The areawide water quality management planning process does not provide for a "no-growth" sewer service area if the conditions, standards, and requirements of expanding the service area are addressed.

Providing a smaller expansion of the sewer service area might serve to more effectively promote development located adjacent to the sewer urban fringe, but other factors drive development decisions to a great extent such that is uncertain if the service area boundaries would alter development patterns to a significant extent. Regardless of the service area boundaries, in-filling along the sewer urban fringe is typically most economical and promoted by other factors.

The Greater Kenosha Area SSA is already extended in every possible direction, except in the area being proposed for expansion so expansion in another location is not considered feasible.

Increasing density within the current SSA as an alternative to expansion is not feasible based on the forecast population and density standards adopted under local comprehensive or land use planning. The SSA process as defined under NR 121, Wis. Adm. Code, allows for the use of local municipal adopted population density standards.

Other alternatives with regard to serving the area by connecting to a sewerage system other than Kenosha are not considered cost-effective or feasible.

Alternative methods of mitigation for non-point or other construction related impacts may be considered on a project specific basis as developments occur.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

10. 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>
9/14/06	Tom Gilbert - DNR – Wastewater Facility Planning Coordinator – WT	Prepared EA

11. On-site inspection or past experience with site by evaluator.

Not Applicable

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

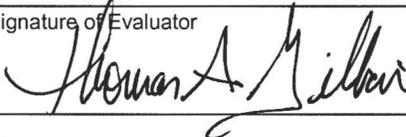


The attached analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final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

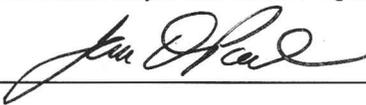
B. Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process



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 5/14/07
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Number of responses to news release or other notice: No comments were received.

Certified to be in compliance with WEPA	
Environmental Analysis and Liaison Program Staff 	Date Signed 05/15/2007

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed.

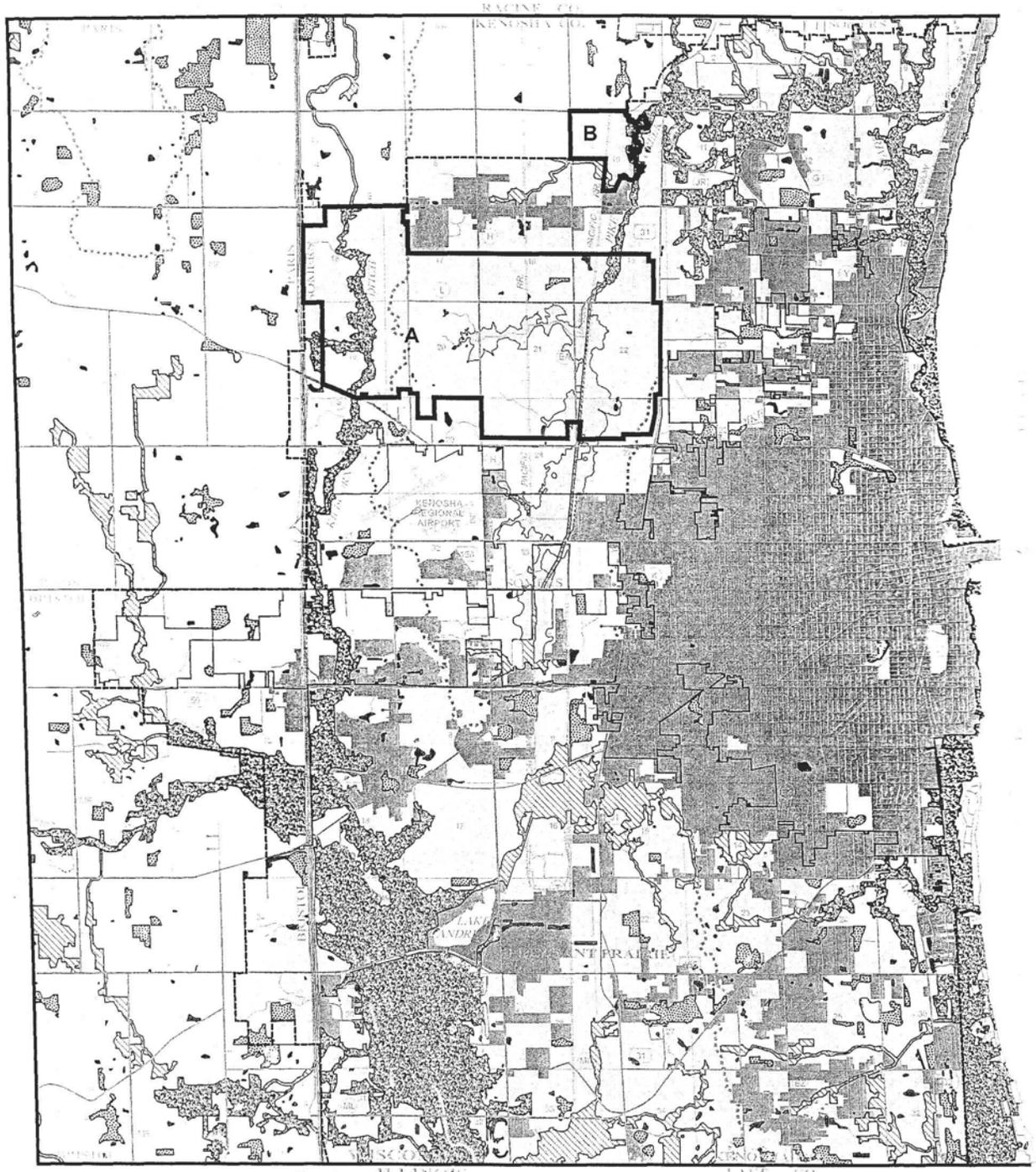
For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 227.48(2), Stats.

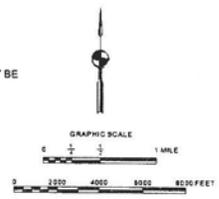
Attachment 1

Map 1

GREATER KENOSHA PLANNED SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA WITH PROPOSED ADDITIONS



-  GREATER KENOSHA SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA
-  AREAS SERVED BY SANITARY SEWERS: 2000
-  RACINE AND ENVIRONS SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA
-  PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
-  SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
-  ISOLATED NATURAL RESOURCE AREA
-  WETLANDS AND SURFACE WATER AREAS LESS THAN FIVE ACRES IN SIZE
-  AIRPORTS, LARGE PARK AND RECREATION SITES, AND SIMILAR USES WITHIN THE SEWER SERVICE AREA
-  UNDEVELOPED FLOODLANDS ALONG PIKE CREEK THAT ARE POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO THE PIKE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR. THE BOUNDARIES OF SUCH AREAS MAY BE MODIFIED BASED UPON ENGINEERING STUDIES AND DETAILED SITE PLANNING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS AND A FINDING OF NO NET LOSS IN FLOODWATER STORAGE VOLUME, CLASSIFICATION AS TO PRIMARY OR SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR WILL BE MADE BASED UPON THE ULTIMATE CONFIGURATION OF THE FLOODPLAIN IN THIS AREA.
-  AREAS PROPOSED TO BE ADDED TO THE GREATER KENOSHA SEWER SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Scott Hassett, Secretary

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Box 7921
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Telephone 608-266-2621
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TTY Access via relay - 711

July 18, 2006

DNR File No. SE-0090

Mr. Thomas H. Buestrin, Chairman
Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
W239 N1812 Rockwood Drive
P.O. Box 1607
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan -
Greater Kenosha Area / Town of Somers

Dear Mr. Buestrin:

We have completed our review of the subject amendment request submitted to the Department on July 14, 2006. As described in Phil Evenson's letter of July 12, 2006 to Thomas Gilbert, this submittal consists of a portion (1,082 acres) of an amendment area totaling approximately 4,608 acres that was previously submitted to the Department for review and approval. That previous submittal is currently under review and is subject to the preparation of a Department Environmental Assessment report. The current subject amendment request contains less than 1,000 developable acres and is therefore not subject to the requirement of an Environmental Assessment.

The Department hereby approves the sewer service area amendment request that adds 1,082 acres located east of CTH EA in the Town of Somers. The area includes 267 acres of environmentally significant lands, 66 acres of existing urban development and 749 acres of agricultural and other open land. The area is within Kenosha County (see attached Map 1 from SEWRPC Staff Memorandum).

The proposed amendment constitutes a portion of an amendment that was adopted by SEWRPC per Resolution Number 2005-23 on December 7, 2005.

The approval of this sewer service area amendment does not constitute approval of any other local, state, or federal permit that may be required for sewer construction or associated land development activities.

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, sections 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.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Stats., and ch. NR 2, Wis. Adm. Code, 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. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review.

Sincerely,

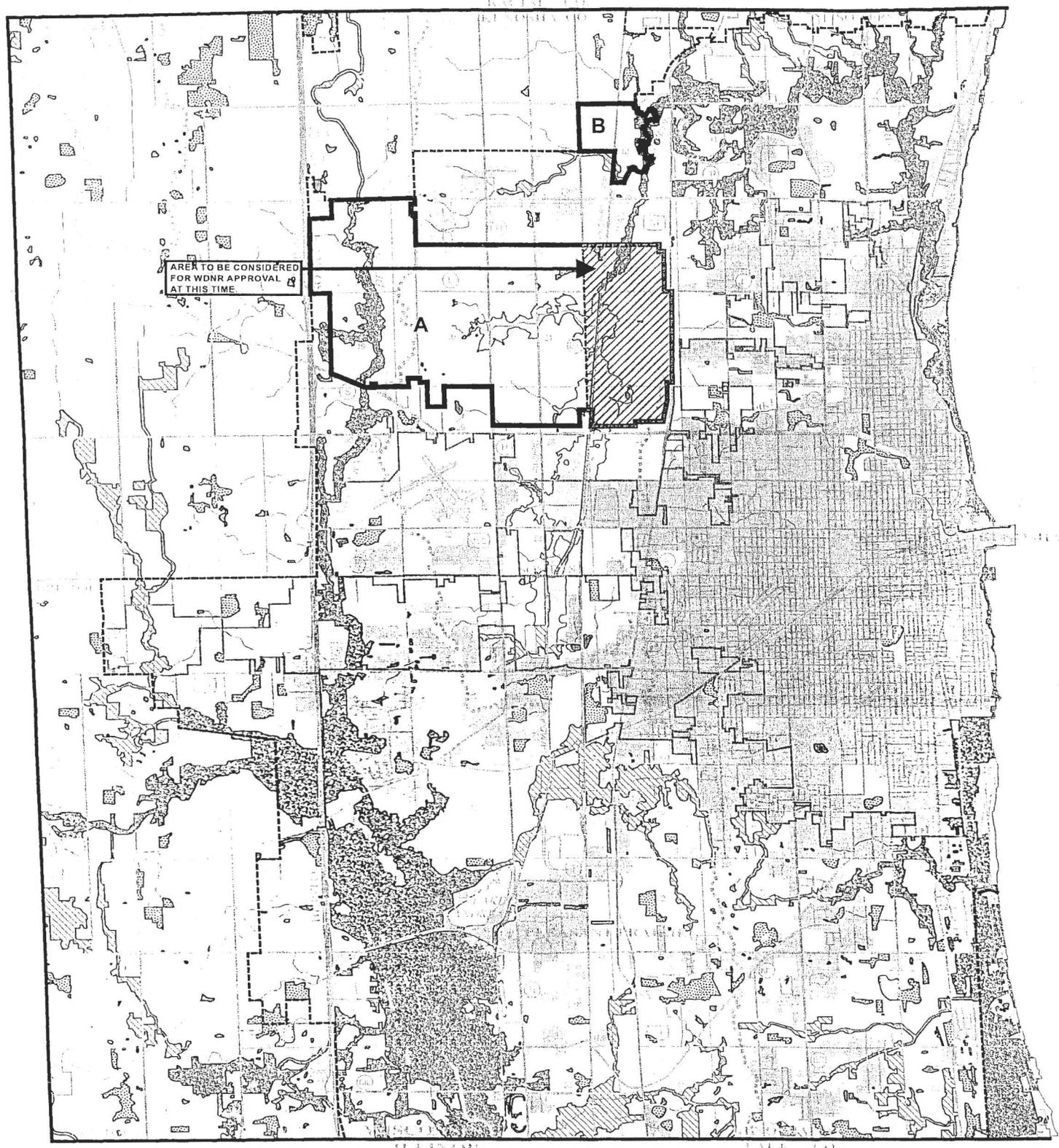


Duane H. Schuettpelz, Chief
Wastewater Section
Bureau of Watershed Management

cc:

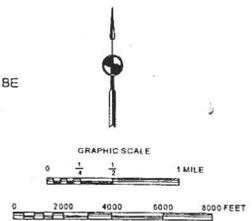
- Mr. Michael Higgins, Clerk; City of Kenosha; 625 52nd Street, Room 105; Kenosha, WI 53140
- Mr. Jeffrey Labahn, City Planner; City of Kenosha; 625 52nd Street, Room 308; Kenosha, WI 53140
- Mr. Edward St. Peter, General manager; Kenosha Water Utility; 4401 Green Bay Road; Kenosha, WI 53144
- Ms. Kay Goergen, Clerk; Town of Somers; 7511 12th street; Somers, WI 53171
- Ms. Edna Highland, Kenosha County Clerk; Kenosha County Administration Building; 1010 56th Street; Kenosha, WI 53140
- Mr. George Melcher, Director; Kenosha County Department of Planning and Development; Kenosha Center; 19600 75th Street; Bristol, WI 53104
- Dorothy Wormbly, Wisconsin State Project officer, State and Tribal Programs, U.S. EPA
- Mike Luba – DNR – SER - Sturtevant
- James D'Antouno – DNR – SER - Waukesha
- Gloria McCutcheon – DNR - SER – Milwaukee
- Gerry Novotny – DNR – WT/2
- Tom Gilbert – DNR - WT/2

GREATER KENOSHA PLANNED SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA WITH PROPOSED ADDITIONS



-  GREATER KENOSHA SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA
-  AREAS SERVED BY SANITARY SEWERS: 2000
-  RACINE AND ENVIRONS SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA
-  PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
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-  AREAS PROPOSED TO BE ADDED TO THE GREATER KENOSHA SEWER SERVICE AREA



Source: SEWRPC.



NEWS RELEASE
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster, Madison, WI 53702

FOR RELEASE: _____, 2006

CONTACT: Tom Gilbert, Wastewater Facility Planning Coordinator
Phone: 608-267-7628 E-Mail: tom.gilbert@dnr.state.wi.us

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan – Greater Kenosha Area / Town of Somers

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has prepared an environmental assessment for a proposed amendment to the Regional Water Quality Management Plan for the Greater Kenosha Area / Town of Somers. The plan amendment has been adopted by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and it includes an expanded sanitary sewer service area (SSA). The amendment is based on updated local population and land use information and identifies areas that may be subject to sewered development through the year 2035. The SSA plan serves as a basis for state approval of locally proposed public sewer extensions and as a basis for providing financial assistance for certain sewerage systems projects. The SSA plan is an important planning and development guide for local communities.

The SSA plan identifies two areas within the Town of Somers in Kenosha County that will be added to the regional sewer service area that is tributary to the City of Kenosha Wastewater Treatment Facility. “Area A” is generally located between Interstate Highway 94 and Green Bay Avenue (State Trunk Highway 31), and north of County Trunk Highway S. This area consists of approximately 5.5 square miles (3,526 acres), including 396 acres of environmentally significant land, 252 acres of existing urban development, and 2,611 acres of agricultural land that is planned for future urban use. “Area B” is generally located south of County Trunk Highway A and west of Pike Creek. It contains 49 acres of environmentally significant lands, 22 acres of existing urban land, and 215 acres of agricultural land that is anticipated to be developed for residential use. The designation as “environmentally significant” means that sewered development will generally not be permitted in these areas, or will only occur in a limited and controlled manner that still ensures protection of water quality.

A portion of “Area A” (approximately 1.7 square miles) is located west of the Lake Michigan watershed boundary. The plan amendment addresses the provision of sewer service, but does not address the provision of water supply. It is expected that the new development within this portion of Area A would be served by centralized water supply through the Kenosha water utility, which relies on Lake Michigan as its source. After the water supply is used, the wastewater would be conveyed to the City of Kenosha for treatment and return back to Lake Michigan.

The Department’s environmental assessment focuses on the potential impacts of providing sanitary sewer service within the proposed sewer service area boundary. The goal of the department’s plan approval is to protect water resources in the area by directing development away from environmentally sensitive areas and to control water pollution through planned and cost-effective sewered development.

The proposed Department action is not anticipated to result in significant adverse environmental effects. The Department has made a preliminary determination that an environmental impact statement will not be required for this action. Copies of the environmental assessment that led to the DNR's preliminary determination can be obtained from Mr. Tom Gilbert, Wastewater Facility Planning Coordinator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53702, 608-267-2375, tom.gilbert@dnr.state.wi.us.

Public comments, either written or oral, on the environmental assessment are welcome and must be submitted to Mr. Gilbert no later than 4:30 PM on 5/11/07.

5/14/07

→ Jim Pander OE

No public comments were received - public notice period ended 5/11.

For your signature. If you want to keep a copy of this please just return copy of sign-off page to me. Thanks
Tom Gillett W1/2