

BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DETERMINATION ON  
WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE  
For  
Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area (SPSRA) Master Plan

**INTRODUCTION**

The Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA), s. 1.11, Stats., requires state agencies to fully consider and disclose the environmental impacts of agency actions. Chapter NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, outlines policy and procedures for implementing WEPA for the Department of Natural Resources. Section NR 150.35, Wis. Adm. Code requires a final written determination regarding WEPA compliance.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Department of Natural Resources finds that:

1. The department proposed to open a portion of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plan (BAAP) lands as the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area. This action requires the development of a Master Plan for property planning under Ch. NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code.
2. Property planning under Ch. NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code, is an integrated analysis action under s. NR 150.20, Wis. Admin. Code.
3. The department determined to follow the environmental impact statement (EIS) process under s. NR 150.30, Wis. Admin. Code, due to the unique and complex nature of this planning project.
4. Public input was gathered the summer of 2012 on the Regional Property Analysis and was used to develop a document titled, the *Preliminary Vision and Goal Statements and the Draft Conceptual Alternatives for Sauk Prairie Recreation Area*, which was released in July 2013.
5. Public comments on this were gathered in the summer 2013 and summarized in a document, titled *Summary of public comments on the draft vision, goals and conceptual management alternatives for the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area*, which was released in November 2013.
6. During development of the draft master plan and draft EIS the department conferred with other agencies, including the: National Park Service, U.S. Army, Dairy Forage Research Center, Ho-Chunk Nation, and Wisconsin Army National Guard.
7. Based on input from the public and other agencies, the department prepared the document titled, *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Draft Master Plan & Environmental Impact Statement*, which was released in

August 2015.

8. The draft master plan and draft environmental impact statement were made available for public review and comment from August 11 to September 25, 2015. The public was notified of the opportunity to provide input through the department's GovDelivery email distribution network to over 2,000 people. In addition, all major news media were notified with several publishing articles or running video segments.
9. Copies of the draft EIS were made available to the Governor's office and the public through the Department's internet site.
10. An open house meeting and formal public hearing to collect input on the *Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Draft Master Plan & Environmental Impact Statement* were held in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin on September 10, 2015.
11. Verbal comments on the draft EIS were received at the hearing, and written comments were accepted in letter or electronic mail formats through the end of the comment period.
12. The Department prepared a final EIS that includes a summary of the public comments received and the Department's responses to the comments.
13. The final EIS is available on Department's website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EIA/ArchiveTitle.html>.

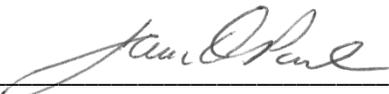
## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The department concludes that:

1. The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to s. 1.11 Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Admin. Code, has the responsibility to comply with WEPA and the authority to determine its compliance with that Act. The proposed project received environmental analysis through the EIS process under s. NR 150.30, Wis. Admin. Code. The procedure and analysis identified in the Findings of Fact complies with the requirements of s.1.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Admin. Code.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Natural Resources  
For the Secretary

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

James D. Pardee  
Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act Coordinator  
Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability