

Wisconsin Geographic Names Council: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who do I contact if I have questions about a name proposal?

A: You should contact the WGNC administrator. A link to their email and phone number is provided on the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council Homepage.

Q: How do I know the name I'm proposing is an acceptable name?

A: Review the WGNC and BGN naming policies linked on the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council Homepage. If your name doesn't violate those policies it is an acceptable name for proposal.

Q: How do I know the WGNC received my proposal?

A: The WGNC administrator will email you a confirmation that your proposal was received. They may ask for additional information and are required to check the name proposal does not violate WGNC and BGN naming policies.

Q: Who will contact me when my proposal is approved/denied?

A: You will receive a letter from the BGN when the name is approved and made official on State and Federal records. If your proposal was denied by the WGNC you will receive a letter from us with the reason(s) for the denial.

Q: What makes for a good name proposal?

A: The WGNC prefers to use names that have historical, natural, or cultural significance where possible. A proposal that justifies the name choice with evidence of historical or local usage of the name or demonstrates the names significance to the history of that particular feature has a better chance of approval than a name proposal that proposes naming the feature after a beloved pet.

Q: How long does this process take?

A: It is very difficult to give an accurate estimate. Most proposals will be closed within a year of the initial WGNC review in January, however in some cases it can take longer.