



State of Wisconsin \ GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

Jim Doyle, Governor

101 South Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707
FAX 608-267-7650
TDD 608-267-6897

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To: The Citizens of Wisconsin

The Honorable Governor Jim Doyle
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Secretary Frank Busalacchi - Department of Transportation
Secretary Dick Leinenkugel - Department of Commerce
Secretary Rod Nilsestuen - Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
Secretary Karen Timberlake - Department of Health Services
Secretary Matthew J. Frank - Department of Natural Resources
President Kevin P. Reilly - University of Wisconsin System
State Geologist James Robertson - Geological and Natural History Survey

Todd Ambs,
Council Chair
DNR

James Robertson
WGNHS

Kathy F. Pielsticker
DATCP

Henry Anderson, MD
DHS

Anders Andren
UWS

Berni Mattsson
COMMERCE

Dan Scudder
DOT

George Kraft
GOVERNOR'S REP.

The Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) is pleased to release its 2009 Report to the Legislature. The GCC was formed in 1984 to help state agencies coordinate non-regulatory activities and exchange information on groundwater. For the past 25 years, the GCC has served as a model for interagency coordination and cooperation among state agencies, the Governor, local and federal government, and the university. It is one of the few groups in the nation to effectively coordinate groundwater activities in its state from an advisory position.

This report summarizes GCC and agency activities related to groundwater protection and management in FY 09 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) and provides an overview of the condition of the groundwater resource. See the *Executive Summary* for highlights and the GCC's recommendations in *Directions for Future Groundwater Protection*. The full report will be made available online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gcc/rtl/gccreport.htm>.

Highlights of the State's groundwater protection activities this past year include:

- Passage of the Great Lakes Compact and Implementing Legislation – 2008 Wisconsin Act 227.
- Implementation of 2003 Wisconsin Act 310 – the Groundwater Quantity Law - resulted in major improvements in the collection of high-capacity well pumpage data, with 2008 data setting a baseline for groundwater usage.
- GCC-facilitated research on virus-contamination of groundwater-supplied public drinking water supplies showed virus occurrence is more widespread than expected. New techniques for detecting and tracing viruses have been developed through this work.
- Key groundwater information and education efforts including Water Resources Institute publications of fact sheets on nitrate and arsenic in groundwater, groundwater teacher workshops, and a new outreach program created at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey.

We hope you will find this report to be a useful reference in protecting Wisconsin's valuable groundwater resource.

Sincerely,

Todd Ambs, Chair
Groundwater Coordinating Council