DATE:     August 24, 2012

CONTACT:  Eric Nitschke, Southeast Regional Director, (414) 263-8570

DNR staff continues to work with Washington County and West Shore Pipe Line (WSP) officials to respond to public health concerns due to the gasoline spill that occurred in the Town of Jackson on July 17.

Area Wide Drinking Water Advisory and Flush Only Advisory Notice: The Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater have sent health advisory letters to 18 residents. Bureau staff are reviewing sampling results and monitoring the advisory area in consultation with Department of Health Services and Washington County Health Department staff. The boundary area of the advisory has not changed since the original news release on July 31st.

Private water supply wells: A total of 296 discrete water supply wells at 284 residences have been sampled. Benzene has been detected in 23 wells and 18 residents have received DNR advisory letters. A sampling plan and schedule for the advisory area was implemented at the beginning of last week.

Bottle water delivery: Bottled water continues to be delivered. Tanks also are being delivered to residents who request them.

Point-of-Entry water treatment systems (POETs): A total of 70 POETs have been installed and post-POET installation sampling is ongoing. We are hoping that by the end of this week, certainly before Labor Day, enough samples will have been collected and analyzed, so that we can determine if the units are working. Some area residents received an advertisement in the mail for a different water treatment system that caused some confusion – only Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services preapproved POET units are being used.

Groundwater investigation: The interim groundwater remediation system is in full operation with treated water being discharged via the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. A geophysical survey and down well camera survey was completed this week; results are pending. Free-product has been measured in the three wells nearest to the spill location. Pneumatic pumps are being used to do some pump/recovery testing on those wells. Vacuum trucks are onsite to continue with product recovery activities. Two drill rigs are onsite and a total of 45 wells have been completed.

Air monitoring: Continuous air monitoring onsite is still occurring around the perimeter of the work zone. The work zone area is in the process of being fenced in.

Community Relations: Staff met this week with the Washington County Local Emergency Planning Committee and of the Hummingbird and Wildflower subdivisions.