

Phosphorus Update

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Significant Nutrient-related Water Quality Problems





DNR Objective 1

- Balanced point source - nonpoint source approach



DNR Objective 2

- Reasonable compliance schedules and implementation options
 - Must be consistent with Clean Water Act

Nonpoint Source Phosphorus Control





NR 243 & NR 151 Phosphorus Index

- Performance standard for farmlands

- Maximum average of 6



- Based on crop rotations, slope and amount of phosphorus in soil

- Required to receive income tax credits



Recent Federal and State Grants

- \$5 million for 27 Targeted Runoff Management (DNR)
- NRCS (USDA) funded projects:
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (NRCS)
 - Mississippi River Basin Initiative (NRCS)
- EPA funded (new programs)
 - TMDL Implementation (EPA)
 - Gulf Hypoxia (EPA)

Point Source Phosphorus Control



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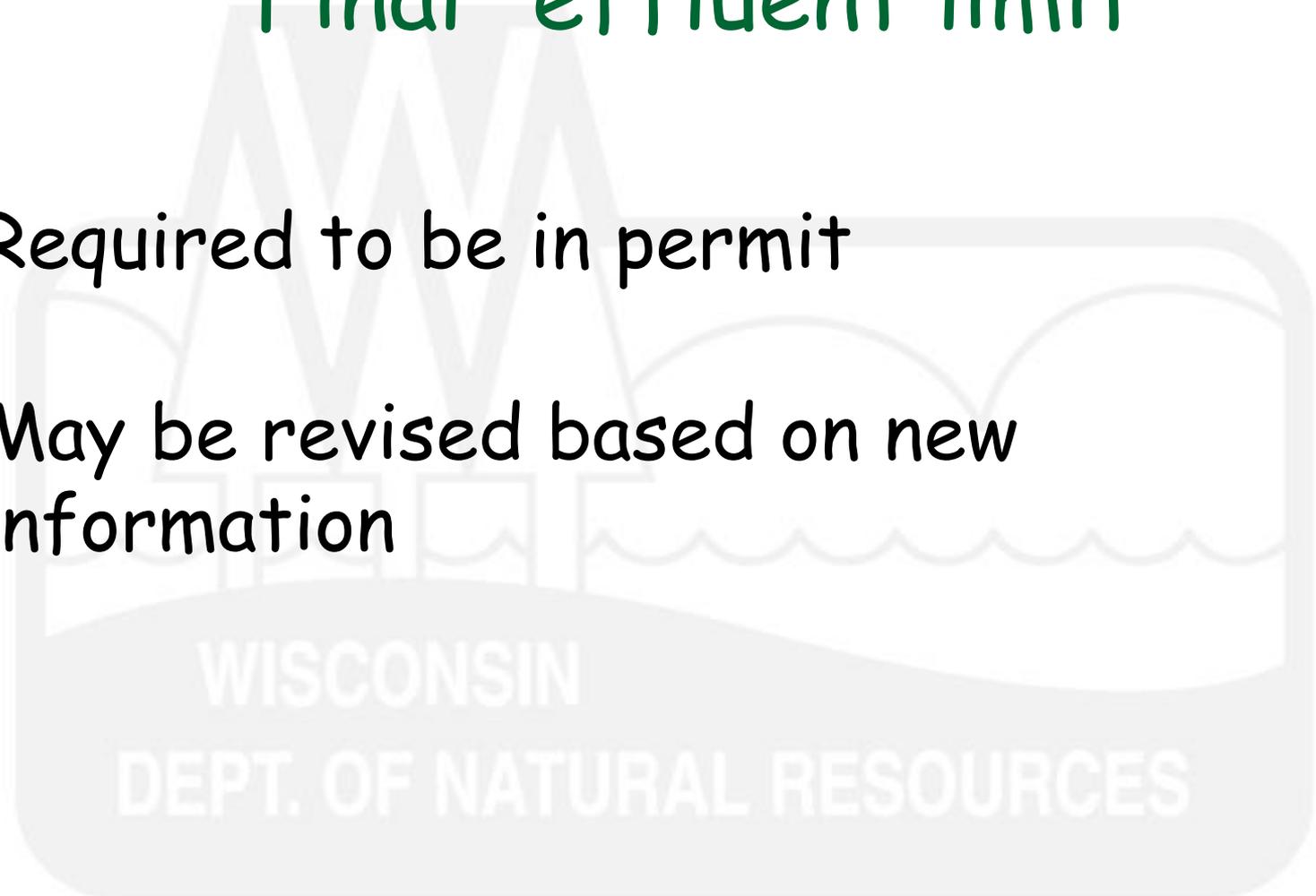
WPDES Permits

- NR 217 and NR 106
- *Guidance for water quality trading*
- *Guidance for the watershed adaptive management option*



"Final" effluent limit

- Required to be in permit
- May be revised based on new information



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Approved TMDLs

- Generally less stringent limits
- Rock River Basin - approved
- Lower Fox/Lower Green Bay - very soon
- Wisconsin River Underway



Extended Compliance Schedules

- Up to 7 to 9 years
- Implementation option identified as part of permit reissuance application - 3 to 4 years



Implementation Options (e. g. for Limits <0.3 to 0.5 mg/L)

- Technology
- Watershed adaptive management option
- Water quality trading
- Variances (economic)



Watershed Adaptive Management Option

- Nonpoint source dominated watersheds
- Filtration needed
- Up to three permit terms (10 to 15 years)
- Interim limit (e.g. 0.6 mg/L)



Watershed Adaptive Management Option (continued)

- Watershed project -- urban and rural sources
- Must demonstrate progress
- Water quality monitoring required
- Potentially higher effluent limit



Trading

- Attractive option - smaller facilities
- Very limited historical success
- Economic drivers must be right



Variances

- Other options not affordable
- “Widespread social and economic impact”



MS4 and TMDLs

- May extend over two or three permit terms
- Interim requirements to assure progress



Closing

- Balanced point source - nonpoint source approach
- Reasonable compliance schedules and implementation options
 - To extent allowed under Clean Water Act
- Challenge -- affordability



Questions?