

Notice of Complete Application and Public Hearing for a Diversion of Great Lakes Water

The City of Waukesha, 115 Delafield Street, Waukesha, WI 53188-3615 has applied to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for an approval to divert water for public water supply purposes from Lake Michigan to an area that lies outside the Great Lakes Basin. The diverted water will serve an area that includes the City of Waukesha (City) and may serve portions of the City of Pewaukee, and the Towns of Genesee, Waukesha, and Delafield. The City's application materials include: An Application for a Lake Michigan Water Supply including Appendices A through P, submitted May 20, 2010; City of Waukesha Application for Great Lakes Water Cost Information for Oak Creek and City of Racine Water Supply Alternatives, dated September 1, 2010; Supplemental Response to DNR Questions, dated April 27, 2011; and Supplemental Water Conservation Information, dated May 26, 2011 and June 17, 2011.

The City currently obtains its public water supply from groundwater wells in the deep aquifer whose water levels have declined by more than 500 feet and are continuing to decline by 5 to 9 feet annually. The groundwater also contains high levels of radium. The City asserts that it needs a new source of water to address both water quantity and water quality concerns. The application identifies the cities of Milwaukee, Racine, and Oak Creek as potential water suppliers. The application identifies Underwood Creek in Wauwatosa, the Root River and Lake Michigan as potential return flow locations, and lists Underwood Creek as the preferred alternative. Under the City's proposal, based on projected needs, the City seeks to eventually divert an annual average of 10.9 million gallons of water per day with a maximum day diversion of 18.5 million gallons. Currently, the City's wastewater is discharged to the Fox River in the Mississippi River Basin. Under the proposed application, a volume of wastewater equal to the volume of water withdrawn from Lake Michigan would be returned to the Lake Michigan Basin. Wastewater in excess of the amount diverted (and all wastewater flow during specified high flow conditions) would continue to be discharged to the Fox River.

DNR has determined that the application materials submitted by the City constitute a complete application under Wis. Stat. § 281.346(9)(b)1. The Department will follow the steps below to reach its final decision on the application:

- Step 1: Informational Meeting/Public hearings I – to introduce the review process and receive comments on EIS scope and interpretation of review criteria. (30-day public comment period)
- Step 2: DNR technical review of the application, preparation of draft EIS and draft decision
- Step 3: Informational Meeting/Public hearings II – to receive comments on draft decision and draft EIS. (45-day public comment period)
- Step 4: DNR finalizes the technical review and EIS. DNR determines if application will be forwarded to the Great Lakes States and Provinces. (30-day public comment period on EIS)
- Step 5: Application forwarded to Great Lakes States and Provinces for review (Step 5 applies only if application is determined to be approvable by the DNR.)
- Step 6: DNR issues final decision on Waukesha application (Step 6 applies only if all eight Great Lakes States approve the application.)

You may review the application materials at the:

- Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, Fifth Floor, 101 South Webster Street, Madison, Wisconsin
- DNR Waukesha Service Center, 141 NW Barstow, Waukesha, WI 53188
- On-line at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/WaukeshaDiversionApp.htm>

During this first public participation step, any comments are welcome; however, comments at this time are particularly requested on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement and/or on the review criteria and process. Comments must be postmarked no later than August 13th, 2011, or 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice—whichever is later. Please send comments to:

Attn: Kay McConnell, DG/5
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S Webster St., Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921.

Alternatively, persons may submit comments electronically to DNRWaukeshaDiversionApp@wisconsin.gov.

DNR will hold three public hearings during this first public participation step to introduce the application, review process and review criteria, and to receive public comments. These hearings will be held on:

Tuesday July 26th, 2011, Waukesha County Technical College, Business Building, Lecture Hall B140 and B130, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee, WI 53072
http://www.wctc.edu/general_info/maps/floorplans/printable_wctc_map.pdf

Wednesday July 27th, 2011, Hart Park, Riverview Room, 7300 Chestnut Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Thursday July 28th, 2011, Sturtevant DNR Service Center, 9531 Rayne Road, Sturtevant, Wisconsin 53177

All hearings will include an Open House that starts at 5:30 p.m. (with displays, handouts and DNR staff available to answer questions). A presentation and question-and-answer period will begin at 6:00 p.m. The formal public hearing will be conducted at the conclusion of the question-and-answer period.

Note: This is the first set of public hearings. Additional hearings will be scheduled once the DNR has completed the draft Technical Review, Decision, and Environmental Impact Statement. The next hearings are expected to occur no earlier than November 2011.

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
For the Secretary

By _____
Jill Jonas, Director
Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater