



State of Wisconsin \ GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

Scott Walker, 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 Scott Walker
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
Secretary Mark Gottlieb - Department of Transportation
Secretary Dave Ross - Department of Safety and Professional Services
Secretary Ben Brancel - Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
Secretary Kitty Rhoades - Department of Health Services
Secretary Cathy Stepp - Department of Natural Resources
President Kevin P. Reilly - University of Wisconsin System
State Geologist James Robertson - Geological and Natural History Survey

Ken Johnson,
Council Chair
DNR

James Robertson
WGNHS

John Petty
DATCP

Henry Anderson, MD
DHS

James Hurley
UWS

Eric Scott
DSPS

Dan Scudder
DOT

George Kraft
GOVERNOR'S REP.

The Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) is pleased to release its 2013 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 29 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 and provides links to information on GCC and agency activities related to groundwater protection and management in FY 13 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). The links also provide information on the condition of the groundwater resource. At the end of this report are the GCC's recommendations titled *Directions for Future Groundwater Protection*.

(<http://ua.dnr.wi.gov/topic/groundwater/documents/GCC/Report/Recommendations.doc>). The report and supporting materials are available online at <http://ua.dnr.wi.gov/topic/Groundwater/GCC/report.html>.

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

- Research and monitoring contributing to our understanding of many groundwater issues including the impacts of agricultural practices, strontium, hexavalent chromium, climate change, water use, fecal contamination and various hydrogeological environments on groundwater quality and quantity.
- Progress on the use of existing groundwater quality data in characterizing the condition of the groundwater resource.
- WGNHS, DNR and USGS worked together to make improvements to the statewide groundwater observation well network. These improvements included bringing a number of existing wells into the network, drilling a new monitoring well in Waukesha County, and adding two spring gaging stations to the network.

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

Sincerely,

Ken Johnson, Chair
Groundwater Coordinating Council