



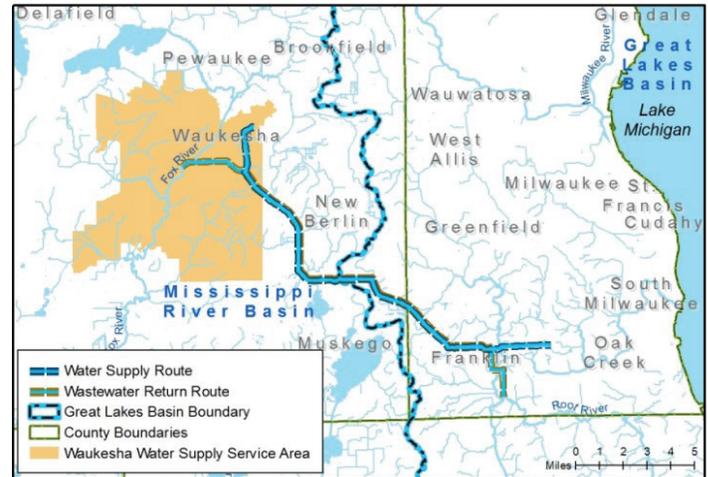
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Waukesha, Wisconsin Diversion Application

January 2016

The city of Waukesha, located in southeast Wisconsin 17 miles west of Lake Michigan, seeks an exception from the prohibition of diversions under the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement. The Compact and Agreement prohibit diversions of Great Lakes water, with limited exceptions. One exception allows a “community within a straddling county,” such as Waukesha, to apply for a diversion of Great Lakes water.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) forwarded the application for regional review by the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body and the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact Council. The DNR has extensively reviewed the city’s diversion application, first submitted to the department in May 2010 and updated and revised in October 2013. In summer 2015, the DNR held public hearings and received extensive comments that were carefully considered during the DNR’s final review.



compounded a problem of high radium concentration (a naturally occurring carcinogen) in the groundwater. The city’s current public water supply is supplemented by water from the shallow aquifer. In 2014, the city served a population of 70,850 people and used 6.6 million gallons of water per day. The city is directed under a 2009 Wisconsin court judgment to solve its radium contamination problem by 2018.



In its application, the city proposes to divert up to an annual average of 10.1 million gallons per day upon final water supply service area build-out for a population of 97,400 (approximately the year 2050). Under the proposed diversion, the city would receive treated water from the city of Oak Creek Water Utility, which is located in the Great Lakes basin and withdraws surface water from Lake Michigan. The water would be transported to Waukesha via a pipeline and distributed to customers. The city proposes that water will be treated at the city’s wastewater treatment plant before it is piped and discharged to the Root River located in the Lake Michigan basin. Water supply and wastewater return flow pipelines would be approximately 20 miles long and share much of the same route.

The city asserts that it needs a new source of water to address water quantity and quality concerns. The city has long relied on a deep aquifer groundwater supply, but depressed water levels in the deep aquifer have

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources maintains a website on the diversion application at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WaterUse/WaukeshaDiversionApp.html>