

E-Bulletin Newsletter



To provide affordable financial assistance to communities within Wisconsin for water infrastructure projects that protect and improve public health and water quality for current and future generations.



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Let's Get the Lead Out! New Program Under Development

The Water Infrastructure Financing Transfer Act (WIFTA), which was enacted in October 2019, is providing the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) with another opportunity to award principal forgiveness funding for private lead service line (LSL) removal.

Unlike the principal forgiveness (PF) funding for private LSLs that was awarded in State Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018, this funding will *not* be restricted to municipalities that meet the program's disadvantaged criteria.

This funding will be available to any municipality that has private LSLs in their water system and has reported those private LSLs to the Public Service Commission (PSC) on Schedule W-29.

(Note: The current deadline to report this information is April 1, 2020.)

We are currently in the preliminary stages of developing this program and will *not* be ready to accept applications this coming June. We anticipate accepting applications to the program over several years, but the date the funding will first become available has not yet been determined.

We will provide regular updates on development of the program in our newsletter and through the department's GovDelivery system, and the basic structure of the program will be laid out in the SDWLP Intended Use Plan that will be published for public comment in the spring.

Be aware that having an accurate inventory of service line materials and reporting that information to the PSC is extremely important.

Municipalities that have not reported any private LSLs to the PSC will *not* be eligible for the program.

We would also urge you to start considering whether your municipality could pass an ordinance mandating the replacement of private LSLs to facilitate getting all of the lead out of your public water system.

Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming months!

Upcoming Deadlines

February

SFY 21 CWFPP & SDWLP Project Priority Lists (PPLs) published.

March

SFY 21 CWFPP project priority score objections deadline (within 30 days after PPL is published).

March 15

PSC approved rate order due to project manager (prior to execution of FAA).

March 31

Executed construction contracts due for SFY 20 SDWLP projects.

April 30

Last recommended date for opening bids on SFY 20 CWFPP projects.

[View Statutory Deadlines](#)

For both PF & non-PF CWFPP applications, the loan closing must be within eight (8) months of the application acceptance notification date

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Program implementation details are outlined in chs. [NR 162](#) and [NR 166](#), Wis. Adm. Code. [Legal notice](#): This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format upon request, call 608-267-9481 for more information.

Clean Water Fund Program SFY 2021 Project Priority List

On February 11, 2020, DNR published the [CWFP SFY 2021 PPL](#), which identifies, in priority score order, all projects that are eligible to submit an application for SFY 2021 funding (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).

If your municipality appears on the PPL and you wish to pursue funding, review the following documents:

- [Next steps for CWFP funding](#)
- [CWFP application process & contents](#)

Please log in to the [online system](#) to see how DNR scored the project and see any comments related to the scoring.

You have until **03/12/2020** to submit a project priority score objection and provide any new information that was unavailable at the time of the ITA/PERF submittal.

Submit PERF score objections with supporting documentation to [Lisa Bushby](#), CWFP coordinator.

DOA Tip: Interim Financing & Filing

Municipalities likely have received communications from their bond counsel or municipal advisor about recent changes to continuing disclosure undertakings for debt issued after February 27, 2019.

If you borrow from the CWFP or SDWLP or get interim financing prior to a CWFP or SDWLP loan, you may be required to make filings within 10 business days.

Since you only have 10 business days, we recommend that you consult your bond counsel before or parallel to execution of any loan agreement or interim financing paperwork.

Failure to make these filings won't impact your ability to borrow from the CWFP and SDWLP, but it may be a headache if you want to access the public municipal market in the future for borrowing related to other projects.

Find out more from your bond counsel or municipal advisor, [Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board \(MSRB\)](#), or [Government Finance Officers Association \(GFOA\)](#).

Drinking Water System Database

Beginning late last year, the DNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater (DG) provided a website where operators, their engineer, or anyone in the world can view sanitary survey deficiencies of any public water system in Wisconsin.

The DG engineer enters the deficiency in the Drinking Water System (DWS) database following their survey and then enters a correction date when it's resolved.

This DWS database information can be queried at dnr.wi.gov/dwsviewer

Put it on your punch list

After querying your public water system, go to the "System Deficiencies" section.

Avoid losing Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula (PERF) points by checking this website for the correction date of your survey deficiency.

You can also search for and monitor your municipalities plan review/s.

Public Water System data viewer

A Public Water System (PWS) provides piped water to the public for human consumption. Wisconsin PWSs are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

This site allows you to query and download data from the Drinking Water System (DWS) database, which is maintained and used by DNR SDWA regulators. Information is current as of approximately 10 p.m. the prior day.

It includes information such as PWS monitoring and other requirements; sample results; violations; inspection findings; plan/document review status; etc.

- **Find Public Water Systems**
 - Find Contaminants in Public Water Supplies
 - Coliform Bacteria Laboratory Listing
- **Find Plan Reviews**
 - Reports

Annual Discount Rate is 3.375% for Cost-Effective Analysis

The DNR has updated the discount rate for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020, which applies to facility plans beginning on or after October 1, 2019, to **3 3/8 percent (3.375%)**, which should be used until the rate's annual update occurring in October 2020. This is a correction to the article run in [Volume 8, Issue 07](#) on 12/05/2019.

Submit Facilities Plans Early for SFY 21 CWFPP Projects

If you decide to apply for funding for your eligible project listed on the [CWFPP SFY 2021 PPL](#), you must have facility plan approval for the application to be complete.

Submit the facilities plan to the DNR Bureau of Water Quality for approval, under ch. NR 110, Wis. Adm. Code.

Requirements

Requirements for submitting a facilities plan are explained in DNR's [Wastewater Facility Planning Studies](#). Any project seeking CWFPP funds must be submitted to the department for plan review and approval, regardless of a "reviewable" or "maintenance" project classification.

Assistance

For assistance with facilities plans, contact the DNR [wastewater systems plan review staff](#). They can give you technical comments that might expedite plan approval.

Submit facilities plan 6 months before application deadline

To ensure you receive the facilities plan approval letter by the application deadline, we encourage you to submit the facilities plan early on to allow ample time for review.

Preferably, you would submit your facilities plan to the department for approval *at least six months before* the CWFPP application submittal deadline.

For SFY 2021 Principal Forgiveness (PF):

- Submit facilities plan for DNR review by 04/03/2020.
- Submit CWFPP PF Application by 09/30/2020 deadline.

Concurrent submittals

If the facilities plan is submitted concurrent with the [plans & specifications](#), provide sufficient lead time, *preferably 6 months*, before the CWFPP application submittal deadline for completion of the facilities plan review.

2020 Disbursement Schedule and Calendar

The visual aids for the disbursement schedule and calendar have been updated for calendar year 2020. Download the [disbursement schedule with 12-month calendar](#) for both Environmental Loans programs, the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFPP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP).

- Banks are closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, in observance of Veterans Day. Disbursements and loan closings will occur on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.
- On Wednesday, December 23, 2020, disbursements will occur. No loan closings will occur on the 23rd.

Revised Form 8700-215 Available

- View [Request for Disbursement Form 8700-215](#).

CWFPP SFY 20 Readiness to Proceed Deadline

In an effort to award principal forgiveness (PF) to projects that are ready to proceed with construction, the Clean Water Fund Program has imposed a readiness-to-proceed deadline for projects that are allocated PF on the Funding List.

All required bid documentation (including an executed construction contract) is required to be submitted to the assigned project manager no later than **June 30, 2020** – the end of the state fiscal year.

This approach helps to encourage the timely use of PF funds as is preferred by EPA.

Please note that the readiness-to-proceed deadline does not apply to CWFPP projects that are *not* receiving PF.



Map of the Counties Served by Each CME

With a few exceptions, Construction Management Engineers (CMEs) work on projects located in the counties they serve.

The counties served by each CME are roughly similar to the commonly referenced [Wisconsin DNR Regions](#), but there are multiple differences.

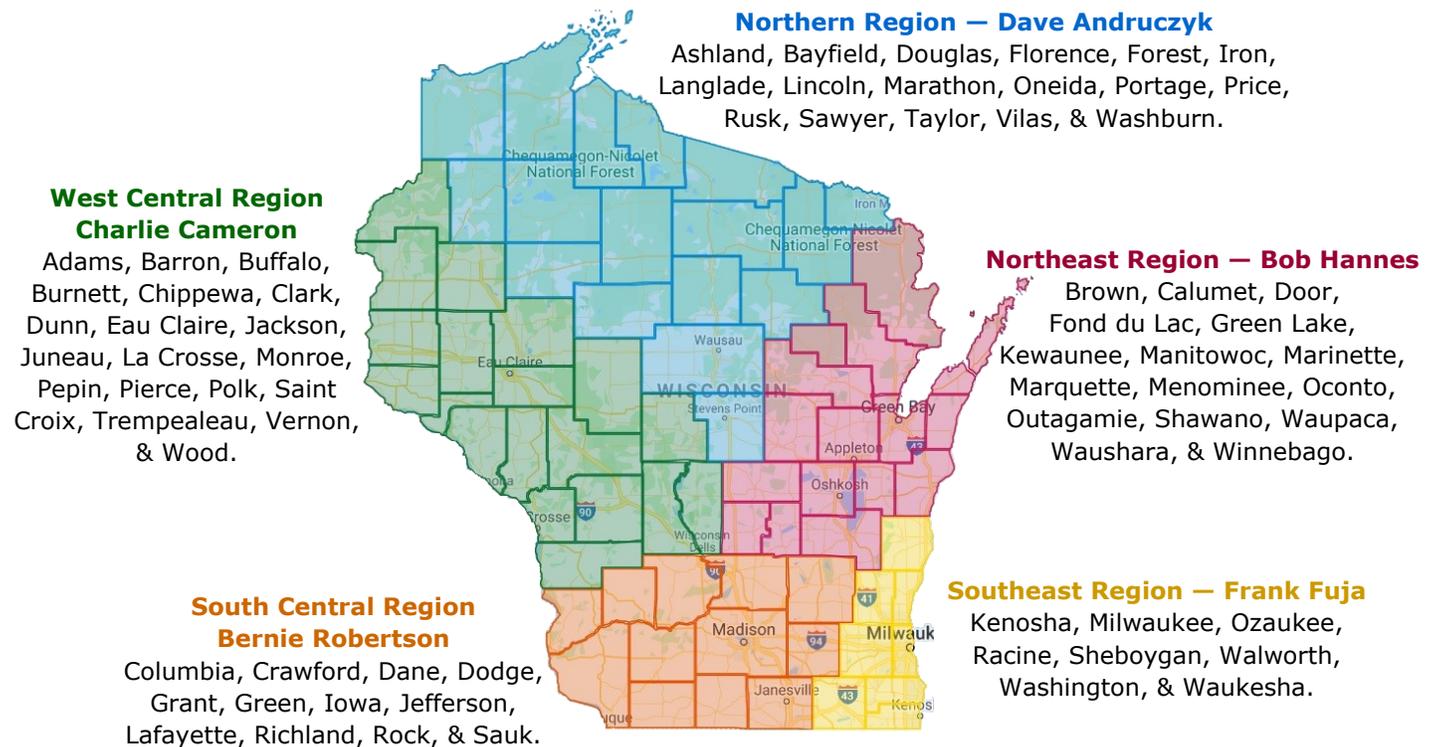
In order to more clearly give customers a sense of the CME that will be assigned to the project, Environmental Loans staff created a [color-coordinated map](#) displaying the counties served by each CME.

Users may interact with the map, search for cities, or click on counties to see more details.

The counties that a CME serves occasionally change depending on the amount of projects that are occurring in a given "region," staff travel time, etc.

As changes are made to the counties served by CMEs, the map will be updated accordingly and impacted municipalities will be notified.

Please direct any questions or comments about the map to Casey Sweeney at Casey.Sweeney@Wisconsin.gov.



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