

Environmental Loans E-Bulletin

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Water, Water everywhere...

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- Cindy Wheeler - Administrative Support
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The Environmental Loans E-Bulletin is written by staff in the WI DNR Environmental Loans Section to provide up-to-date information on both the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP). These E-Bulletins are sent periodically to alert you to upcoming deadlines, highlight program changes and provide assistance on topics that need clarification.

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Federal Budget update:

The Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2013 budget appropriation was recently passed by Congress, with \$1,451,791,000 designated for the CWFP and \$908,713,000 designated for the SDWLP, slightly less than FFY '12 funding of \$1,468,806,000 (CWFP) and \$919,363,000 (SDWLP). The FFY '13 appropriation includes Principal Forgiveness for both programs, but does not include "Buy American" requirements. In addition, the appropriation included a small across the board rescission of 0.16% for all programs and additional reductions specific to State Revolving Funds (SRFs) relating to "unobligated balances". EPA is putting together an Operating Plan for FFY13, due by the end of April, which will specify how EPA will spend these funds.

Meanwhile, EPA has put forward their **FFY 2014 Budget** which **Promotes Sustainable Community Water Resources**. According to EPA, "This Fiscal Year 2014 budget seeks to ensure that federal dollars provided through the State Revolving Funds (SRF) support efficient system-wide planning, improvements in technical, financial, and managerial capacity, and the design, construction, and ongoing management of sustainable water infrastructure. The FFY 2014 budget requests \$1.1 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$817 million for the Drinking Water SRF. EPA is working to increase the use of upfront planning that considers a full range of alternatives, including "green" infrastructure, to ensure timely, relevant and cost-effective investments."

As we hear more about future budgets, we will be sure to pass that information along to you all.

WI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL LOANS PROGRAM



SFY '14 Project Priority Lists Now on the Web

(<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LoanNews.html>)

The final Project Priority List for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014 CWFP is now available on the web. The Department received 224 Intent to Apply (ITA) forms including 109 Priority Evaluation and Ranking Forms (PERFs) scored by the Regional Construction Management Engineers. Letters including project scores were sent to municipalities with a 30-day deadline to submit any additional information that may affect their score. Questions regarding the SFY 2014 CWFP Priority List should be forwarded to Candice Sovinski at candice.sovinski@wisconsin.gov or (608) 264-8986.

The Draft SFY 2014 Project Priority List for the SDWLP is now available on the web. For the SDWLP, the Department received 219 ITA forms with scores being reviewed by staff in the Drinking/Groundwater Section. Letters including project scores have been sent to municipalities with a 30-day deadline to submit any additional information that may affect their score. We anticipate finalizing the SDWLP SFY 2014 Project Priority List by mid- May, 2013. Questions regarding the SFY 2014 SDWLP draft Priority List should be forwarded to Mary Wagner at marye.wagner@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-7475.

New SFY '14 SDWLP Application Now Available

Please use the **new SFY '14 SDWLP application form** when applying for SFY '14 SDWLP funding. There are several significant changes on the forms, including a new Environmental/Archeological/Historical (E/A/H) Review process.

For SDWLP applications*, we streamlined the E/A/H process. **New information about what is needed to be submitted with your SFY '14 application is available on page 3 of this E-bulletin, as well as in our Reference Guide on the Web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/Guide.html>** (look under "E" for Environmental Review). In the reference guide, we include a flow chart with an accompanying explanation for this important part of the SDWLP application.

*Note: for CWFP, the E/A/H process is already part of the facility plan review, so additional E/A/H reviews are not necessary for the purpose of obtaining CWFP funding.

Upcoming Deadlines!!

June 30th:

Deadline for SFY '14 SDWLP applications*
Deadline for SFY '14 CWFP Hardship applications

September 30th:

Deadline for SFY '14 CWFP Principal Forgiveness Applications

*(see article on using the new SDWLP Application form!)

STAFF CHANGES

Dave Calhoon, an Environmental Loans Project Manager for 13 years, has taken a new position in the Community Financial Assistance Grants Section. This is a great opportunity for Dave but he will be missed in the Environmental Loans Section. An upcoming E-Bulletin will have more information about his replacement. Projects now assigned to Dave will be reassigned to the new project manager who will likely start in late May/early June.

Linda Miller, an Environmental Loans Project Manager who returned part time to help train new staff and to assist with project management work left the DNR in mid-April. Her remaining projects have been reassigned to existing staff. We wish her well in her retirement!

Lastly, Bob Hannes, Construction Management Engineer in NER has eliminated his land line phone and will be using his cell phone as his office phone. His cell number is (920) 366-4208.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL CME PRIOR TO YOUR PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING!

Regional Construction Management Engineers:

Northeast Region:	Bob Hannes	robert.hannes@wisconsin.gov	(920) 366-4208
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SDWLP Environmental/Archeological/Historical Review Process Changes

Wastewater projects seeking Clean Water Fund Program funding already undergo the Environmental/Archeological/Historical (E/A/H) review as part of their facilities planning process; therefore, additional environmental reviews are not needed to secure their funding from the CWFP. The state statute exempts drinking water projects from needing an E/A/H review; however, for these projects to comply with federal requirements and be eligible for the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program funding, an Environmental/Archeological/Historical review is required.

If your SDWLP project has had an E/A/H review conducted by another state or federal agency and you can obtain the documentation for that review, you do not need to duplicate the review process. Simply submit the documentation with your SDWLP application. This includes projects for which a Ch. 30 permit is required, as the E/A/H review is part of that permit process.

If your project is contained in an already disturbed area (including both the depth and width of your project) and is not near a water body, wetlands or other sensitive natural resources, then an E/A/H review is not necessary. Simply check N/A on question 6 of your SDWLP application checklist.

If your project is contained in an already disturbed area (including both the depth and width of your project) and is near a water body, wetlands or other sensitive natural resources, then you will need to conduct an E/A/H review. You must complete form ER 1700-047 or 1700-047E and submit it to the Bureau of Endangered Resources, as instructed on the form (including associated fees required with that form). You must also include in your SDWLP application to the Department a topographic map showing the area of disturbance, including the Town/Range/Quarter-Quarter Section numbers as well as a copy of the ER form as submitted to the Department.

If your project is contained in an already disturbed area, **but the digging goes deeper or wider than had previously occurred**, an Archeological/Historical review is required. For this review, just submit a topographical map (as described in the above paragraph) with your SDWLP application form.

Please note that you do not need to contact or submit additional information to the State Historical Society as the DNR liaison to the State Historical Society (currently Mark Dudzik) initiates DNR-related historical and archeological reviews.

Spring Election Results

Are you in the process of obtaining--or do you already have--project financing from the Clean Water Fund Program or Safe Drinking Water Loan Program? If so, and your municipality elects a new president, mayor, public works director, clerk or other municipal official this spring, please let us know as soon as possible.

We want to be sure we have the correct name, street address, phone number and e-mail address for the people in your municipality with whom we need to communicate. It is especially important that we get the correct information right away for municipal officials that will be signing Financial Assistance Agreements and bond documents for upcoming loan closings.

If you submitted an Intent to Apply form or a Financial Assistance Application that included the name of an official who is no longer in office, we want to hear from you! Please inform your project manager or contact Cindy Wheeler at 608-266-9955 or cindy.wheeler@wisconsin.gov with any new contact information.

Chapter NR 162 and Chapter NR 166 Rule Revision Process

The Environmental Loans Section has started the process for revising Chapters NR 162 and 166, Wis. Admin. Code. The scope statement has been approved by the Governor's office and will be to the NRB for approval at their August meeting.

To help with rule drafting, the DNR will be forming an internal and an external advisory group. The timeline for rule drafting will include discussions with advisory groups during the fall and spring of 2013/2014, with the final rule anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2014 and to the Governor and Legislature for their approval during the spring 2015 session. While we don't anticipate major changes with the program, streamlining processes and minor changes will help make the program more efficient, effective and consistent.

Jeanne Cargill, the Environmental Loans Policy Coordinator, will be spearheading this effort. Jeanne can be reached at jeanne.cargill@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-7587.

EL Reference Guide: On-line and Updated!

Have a question about an aspect of our program but you're working in the evening or on a weekend? No need to worry – most of your questions can be answered by simply looking up the information on our on-line reference guide. In fact, when you call your project manager with questions, they will most likely walk you through how to access our guide and read with you the information in the guide. If it is not clear to you or if you think the information is outdated, please let us know so that we can be sure that the information is presented in a clear and understandable way and is as up-to-date as possible!

You can find our Reference Guide at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/Guide.html>

CWFP Pilot Projects

This spring, the Governor signed into law a provision that will allow us to conduct pilot projects as part of the CWFP, consistent with the federal Clean Water Fund Act. The intent of this authority is to allow us to fund projects that help municipalities meet their discharge limits through programs such as Adaptive Management and Trading. We anticipate using these pilot projects to help us craft options for lower cost nontraditional CWFP alternatives.

At this time, we are in the very early stages of identifying what parameters we will be using for these pilot projects. We expect more information on how the Department will implement pilot projects to be available this summer, with projects expected to be identified this fall and into 2014. As pilot projects are defined, reference to them may be included in our rule revision process.



Pilot projects in the future may help municipalities meet their Phosphorus limits through reductions in nonpoint source pollution.