

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DECISION ON THE NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Form 1600-8

Rev. 6-2010

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Region or Bureau Watershed Management
Type List Designation NR 150.03(6)(b)5a

NOTE TO REVIEWERS: This document is a DNR environmental analysis that evaluates probable environmental effects and decides on the need for an EIS. The attached analysis includes a description of the proposal and the affected environment. The DNR has reviewed the attachments and, upon certification, accepts responsibility for their scope and content to fulfill requirements in s. NR 150.22, Wis. Adm. Code. Your comments should address completeness, accuracy or the EIS decision. For your comments to be considered, they must be received by the contact person before 4:30 p.m., Insert Date.

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Applicant: Wisconsin Rapids Area Water Quality Management Plan Policy Committee

Address:

Title of Proposal: Wisconsin Rapids Area Water Quality Management Plan

Location: County: Wood City/Town/Village: Wisconsin Rapids

Township Range Section(s):

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Brief overview of the proposal including the DNR action

The Wisconsin Rapids Water Quality Plan has not been updated since its initial adoption in 1985. There have, however, been a number of amendments to the sewer service area boundaries to accommodate areas that have been annexed by Wisconsin Rapids or Biron. The most recent amendment to the plan was the addition of the entire Village of Rudolph. The village will be connected to the Wisconsin Rapids treatment plant in 2012.

The 1985 plan recommended a comprehensive review and update in 1990. Physical and fiscal resources were not available to implement that recommendation. At a meeting of the policy committee in the early 2000s, members moved to complete mandatory comprehensive plans prior to updating the area-wide water quality management plan. In 2010, the WDNR offered financial and staff assistance to the Wood County Planning & Zoning Office to update the plan.

This plan updates and amends the 1985 document. The update is important because sewer service area plans serve as a basis for WDNR approval of state and federal grants for planning and construction of wastewater treatment and sewerage facilities. It also serves as a basis for WDNR approval of locally proposed sanitary sewer extensions and the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Service approval of private sewer laterals. Also, because the service area plan identifies environmentally sensitive areas,

it serves as a guide for environmental permit decisions by federal and state agencies and can serve as supporting documentation for area projects.

The plan calls for adding 3337 acres to the sewer service area. Of that total, 1651 acres (about 49 %) would be in environmentally sensitive areas delineated for protection. The plan is based on 30-year population growth projections ranging from an additional 1136 persons (about 3 %) to 3833 persons (about 10 %).

2. List the documents, plans, studies or memos on which this DNR review is based

Wisconsin Rapids Area Water Quality Management Plan,

DNR EVALUATION OF PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE

3. Environmental Effects and Their Significance

a. Discuss which of the primary and secondary environmental effects listed in the supporting documents are long-term or short-term.

The plan has the following objectives:

- Preserve and protect the quality of the area's ground and surface water resources by delineating environmentally sensitive areas.
- Preserve and protect environmentally sensitive areas, including wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, wildlife habitat, and other areas that are linked to the environmentally sensitive areas.
- Preserve and protect agricultural production areas from conversion to other uses that can be developed in non-agricultural production areas.
- Promote good development review to accommodate current and future development needs and assist developers to plan projects where services are available to support their projects.
- Economical, well-planned phasing of municipal utilities.

The proposed plan is not anticipated to result in deleterious environmental effects, because:

- Only modest population growth is expected,
 - The plan calls for protection of environmentally sensitive areas,
 - The plan would help to avoid impacts that may otherwise result from developments supported by private onsite wastewater treatment systems, and
 - Future proposed projects for development or sewerage system expansion will be subject to state, federal and local regulations and permitting processes.
- b. Discuss which of the primary and secondary environmental effects listed in the supporting documents are effects on geographically scarce resources (e.g. historic or cultural resources, scenic and recreational resources, prime agricultural lands, threatened or endangered resources, or ecologically sensitive areas).

None.

c. Discuss the extent to which the primary and secondary environmental effects listed in the supporting documents are reversible.

None.

4. Significance of Cumulative Effects

Discuss the significance of reasonably anticipated cumulative effects on the environment (and energy usage, if applicable). Consider cumulative effects from repeated projects of the same type. Would the cumulative effects be more severe or substantially change the quality of the environment? Include other activities planned or proposed in the area that would compound effects on the environment.

None.

5. Significance of Risk

a. Explain the significance of any unknowns that create substantial uncertainty in predicting effects on the quality of the environment. What additional studies or analysis would eliminate or reduce these unknowns?

None.

b. Explain the environmental significance of reasonably anticipated operating problems such as malfunctions, spills, fires or other hazards (particularly those relating to health or safety). Consider reasonable detection and emergency response, and discuss the potential for these hazards.

None.

6. Significance of Precedent

Would a decision on this proposal influence future decisions or foreclose options that may additionally affect the quality of the environment? Describe any conflicts the proposal has with plans or policy of local, state or federal agencies. Explain the significance of each.

No.

7. Significance of Controversy over Environmental Effects

Discuss the effects on the quality of the environment, including socio-economic effects, that are (or are likely to be) highly controversial, and summarize the controversy.

None known.

ALTERNATIVES

8. Briefly describe the impacts of no action and of alternatives that would decrease or eliminate adverse environmental effects. (Refer to any appropriate alternatives from the applicant or anyone else.)

The alternative to expansion of the sewer service area would be to have the proposed developments utilize private onsite wastewater treatment systems. Onsite systems would discharge into local groundwater and associated groundwater impacts could result. The use of large onsite systems as defined in s. NR 200.03, Wis. Adm. Code, would be subject to WDNR permits and required to employ nitrogen removal treatment technology.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

9. List agencies, citizen groups and individuals contacted regarding the project (include DNR personnel and title) and summarize public contacts, completed or proposed.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
7/6/2011	Scott Provost	Scott Provost, DNR Resources Management Specialist, in Wisconsin Rapids attended policy committee meetings in July, September, October and December and advised the group on water quality issues., especially Lake Nepco Lake.
12/19/2011	Peter Pfefferkorn	Sent draft plan to Peter Pfefferkorn, DNR Wastewater Engineer for Wisconsin Rapids.
2/7/2012	Phil Wells	Phil Wells, Planning Analyst at DOA, reviewed and approved methodology and calculations for population estimates.

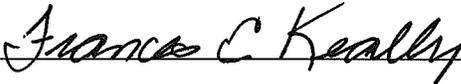
10. On-site inspection or past experience with site by evaluator.

Project Name: Wisconsin Rapids Area Water Quality Management Plan County: Wood

PRELIMINARY DECISION

In accordance with s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

The Department has made a preliminary determination that the Environmental Impact Statement process will not be required for this action/project. This recommendation does not represent approval from other DNR sections which may also require a review of the action/project.

Signature of Evaluator 	Date Signed 5/21/2012
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FINAL DECISION

The public review process has been completed. The Department received and fully considered 0 responses to the news release or other notice.

Pursuant to s. NR 150.22(2)a., Wis. Adm. Code, the attached analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action, and therefore the environmental impact statement process is not required prior to final action by the Department.

The Department has determined that it has complied with s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code. This decision does not represent approval from other DNR sections which may also require a review of the action/project.

Signature of Environmental Analysis Program Staff 	Date Signed 5/21/12
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NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that the Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with section NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with section NR 2.03, Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30 day period for filing a petition for judicial review.