



NEWS RELEASE

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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CONTACT: Frances Keally, Water Resources Management Specialist

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Rapids Area Water Quality Management Plan

Madison, Wis. -- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed an environmental assessment for review of the Wisconsin Rapids Area Water Quality Management Plan. The plan calls for adding 3337 acres to the sewer service area. Nearly half of that acreage would be in environmentally sensitive areas delineated for protection. The plan is based on 30-year population growth projections ranging from about three to ten percent.

The proposed plan is not anticipated to result in significant adverse environmental effects for the following reasons. Only modest population growth is expected. The plan calls for protection of environmentally sensitive areas and would help to avoid impacts that may otherwise result from developments supported by private onsite wastewater treatment systems. Future proposed projects for development or sewerage system expansion will be subject to state, federal and local regulations and permitting processes.

The Department has made a preliminary determination that an environmental impact statement will not be required for this action.

Copies of the environmental assessment that led to the DNR's preliminary determination can be obtained from Frances Keally, Water Resources Management Specialist, Watershed Management, 608-266-3221, fran.keally@wisconsin.gov.

Public comments, either written or oral, on the environmental assessment are welcome and must be submitted to Ms. Keally no later than 4:30 p.m. May 18, 2012.