

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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Public Comments Wanted on Proposed Amendment to BABA Adjustment Period Waiver

In September 2022, EPA issued the [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\) Adjustment Period Waiver for State Revolving Fund \(SRF\) projects](#). This waiver created an exemption to the BABA requirement for SRF-funded projects that initiated design planning prior to May 14, 2022. A full description of the waiver, and details on how Wisconsin DNR is managing the waiver process, is available on our [BABA page](#).

Proposed amendment

EPA is now purposing an amendment to this waiver. The proposed waiver amendment would result in two changes:

1. It would establish a sunset date of September 30, 2024, for the Adjustment Period Waiver which would effectively eliminate the waiver. As a result, federal equivalency projects receiving SRF funding awarded by EPA to Wisconsin DNR after the sunset date would be required to comply with BABA unless the project is exempted under another waiver, regardless of when design planning for the project was initiated. Put more simply, Clean Water Fund Program and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program projects (including Emerging Contaminants and Lead Service Line Replacement projects) funded in State Fiscal Year 2026 would likely not be able to utilize the Adjustment Period Waiver.
2. It would extend the BABA Adjustment Period waiver to include projects funded through EPA's Community Grants program (commonly referred to as "earmarks").

Public comments

Read the full text of the proposed waiver amendment at www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-06/Amended-SRF-Design-Planning-Public-Int-Waiver.pdf. EPA is accepting public comments on the proposed amendment until **July 9, 2023**.

We encourage you to consider the impacts that EPA's proposed amendment may have on your municipality, or the communities that you represent, and to submit any comments directly to EPA at BABA-OW@epa.gov.

Upcoming Deadlines

Note: SFY 24 SDWLP Project Priority List (PPL) was published on May 12, 2023.

June 30

- SFY 24 SDWLP Principal Forgiveness (PF) Application deadline (reminder: submit plans & specifications to DNR Drinking Water & Groundwater as well as with the SDWLP application).
 - Priority score reevaluation requests due within 45 days of SDWLP Application deadline date.
- SFY 23 SDWLP Non-PF Supplemental Application deadline.
- SFY 23 CWFP Non-PF Application deadline (reminder: submit plans and specifications to DNR Water Quality as well as with the CWFP application).
- SFY 23 CWFP PF project readiness-to-proceed deadline. ALL required bid documentation, including executed construction contracts, due.

DNR, Environmental Loans Section—CF/2, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html | CWFP phone: 608-358-3330 | SDWLP phone: 608-720-0802 | [staff directory webpage](#)



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 federal regulations or state statutes or administrative rules 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 federal regulations and state 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.

Change to July Disbursement Request Deadline

Please submit your Request for Disbursement to DNR by close of business on **Wednesday, July 12, 2023**, to receive a disbursement of loan funds on July 26, 2023. The original Friday, July 14 deadline for requests is being modified because of an internal scheduling conflict.

- [Form 8700-215](#) Request for Disbursement for Financial Assistance Programs
- [Form 8700-366](#) Request for Disbursement for Private Lead Service Line Financial Assistance Program

The updated [2023 Disbursement Schedule with 12-Month Calendar](#) is available on our [Disbursement Requests page](#).

Market Rate Unchanged

There is no change in the market rate for financial assistance agreements approved by a municipality's governing body on or after July 1, 2023.

- View current [interest rates](#)

The market rate for loans that have a final maturity of:

- 20 years or less will remain at 3.900%
- 21-30 years will remain at 4.100%

SFY 2024 CFWP Draft Intended Use Plan and Webinar

The draft State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) Intended Use Plan (IUP) will be posted to our [Project Lists & IUPs page](#) soon for a 30-day public comment period.

Intended Use Plan

The SFY 2024 CFWP IUP includes detailed descriptions of the changes made to the program relating to the implementation of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#). Namely, the IUP details the plans for the CFWP Emerging Contaminants Program. Thank you for your patience as we continue work to incorporate the additional BIL funding into our programs.

Webinar

We are hosting a webinar during the public comment period on **Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 1 PM (CT)** to discuss proposed changes in this draft IUP and respond to questions from attendees. You are invited to join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82343964139>.

The webinar will be recorded and posted along with its slide show handout to the Project Lists & IUPs webpage.

Public comments

Please send IUP comments to Casey Sweeney at Casey.Sweeney@wisconsin.gov.

Staff Change at DOA

Andy Behm left the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) on June 2, 2023, for other professional opportunities. Since 2019, he served as a Capital Finance Officer, specializing in annual loan monitoring, loan repayments/collections, loan underwriting, and project closeouts.

Katherine Miller, Deputy Capital Finance Director at DOA, shared with us:

It is with mixed emotions that I announce Andy will be leaving us for a Regulatory Relations and Policy Analyst position at Alliant Energy. I'm super excited for him to start this new chapter and wish him the best in this new endeavor. Andy will be missed in the Capital Finance Office.

We wish Andy and his family the best possible future!



Lake Kegonsa State Park Swimming Beach. Credit: Joseph Warren