For Immediate Release: Oct. 27, 2026
Contact: DNR's Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Environmental Review Team
DNRCFELEnvironmentalReview@wisconsin.gov

DNR Seeking Public Comment For Environmental Review Of City Of Rhinelander's Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Project

Madison, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced it is seeking public comment on the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program's environmental review determination of the City of Rhinelander project.

The project includes construction of a water treatment plant for wells 7 and 8 to improve its public drinking water system.

Activities related to this project are minor actions under chapter NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, for which no environmental analysis is required; an environmental review must be conducted under 40 CFR 35.3580 before funding this project.

The City of Rhinelander submitted with its financial assistance application the information and materials required to conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-like environmental review of the potential environmental impacts of the project and related activities.

The Safe Drinking Water Loan Program has determined that the project will not result in significant adverse environmental effects, and no further environmental review or analysis is needed before proceeding with funding the project.

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding this decision and the potential environmental impacts of this project. Submit comments by Nov. 10, 2026, to:

- DNRCFELEnvironmentalReview@wisconsin.gov.

Based on the comments received, the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program may prepare an environmental analysis before proceeding with the funding process. The analysis would summarize the DNR's consideration of the project's impacts and reasonable alternatives.

Learn more about this environmental review process in the DNR's Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Environmental Review Guide (PUB-CF-60) and on its Environmental Review Public Notices webpage.