

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 3, 2026

DNR Seeking Public Comment For Environmental Review Of Rice Lake 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 Rice Lake project.

The project includes water main replacements on Wisconsin and Phipps Avenues 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 Rice Lake 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 Feb. 17, 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 the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program environmental review process [on the DNR’s website](#).