Let’s Get the Lead Out!
New Program Under Development

The Water Infrastructure Financing Transfer Act (WIFTA), which was enacted in October 2019, is providing the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) with another opportunity to award principal forgiveness funding for private lead service line (LSL) removal.

Unlike the principal forgiveness (PF) funding for private LSLs that was awarded in State Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018, this funding will not be restricted to municipalities that meet the program’s disadvantaged criteria.

This funding will be available to any municipality that has private LSLs in their water system and has reported those private LSLs to the Public Service Commission (PSC) on Schedule W-29. (Note: The current deadline to report this information is April 1, 2020.)

We are currently in the preliminary stages of developing this program and will not be ready to accept applications this coming June. We anticipate accepting applications to the program over several years, but the date the funding will first become available has not yet been determined.

We will provide regular updates on development of the program in our newsletter and through the department’s GovDelivery system, and the basic structure of the program will be laid out in the SDWLP Intended Use Plan that will be published for public comment in the spring.

Be aware that having an accurate inventory of service line materials and reporting that information to the PSC is extremely important.

Municipalities that have not reported any private LSLs to the PSC will not be eligible for the program.

We would also urge you to start considering whether your municipality could pass an ordinance mandating the replacement of private LSLs to facilitate getting all of the lead out of your public water system.

Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming months!
Clean Water Fund Program SFY 2021 Project Priority List

On February 11, 2020, DNR published the CWFP SFY 2021 PPL, which identifies, in priority score order, all projects that are eligible to submit an application for SFY 2021 funding (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).

If your municipality appears on the PPL and you wish to pursue funding, review the following documents:

- Next steps for CWFP funding
- CWFP application process & contents

DOA Tip: Interim Financing & Filing

Municipalities likely have received communications from their bond counsel or municipal advisor about recent changes to continuing disclosure undertakings for debt issued after February 27, 2019.

If you borrow from the CWFP or SDWLP or get interim financing prior to a CWFP or SDWLP loan, you may be required to make filings within 10 business days.

Since you only have 10 business days, we recommend that you consult your bond counsel before or parallel to execution of any loan agreement or interim financing paperwork.

Drinking Water System Database

Beginning late last year, the DNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater (DG) provided a website where operators, their engineer, or anyone in the world can view sanitary survey deficiencies of any public water system in Wisconsin.

The DG engineer enters the deficiency in the Drinking Water System (DWS) database following their survey and then enters a correction date when it’s resolved.

This DWS database information can be queried at dnr.wi.gov/dwsviewer

Public Water System data viewer

A Public Water System (PWS) provides piped water to the public for human consumption. Wisconsin PWSs are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

This site allows you to query and download data from the Drinking Water System (DWS) database, which is maintained and used by DNR SDWA regulators. Information is current as of approximately 10 p.m. the prior day.

It includes information such as PWS monitoring and other requirements; sample results; violations; inspection findings; plan/document review status; etc.

- Find Public Water Systems
- Find Contaminants in Public Water Supplies
- Coliform Bacteria Laboratory Listing
- Find Plan Reviews
- Reports

Put it on your punch list

After querying your public water system, go to the “System Deficiencies” section.

Avoid losing Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula (PERF) points by checking this website for the correction date of your survey deficiency.

You can also search for and monitor your municipalities plan review/s.
Annual Discount Rate is 3.375% for Cost-Effective Analysis

The DNR has updated the discount rate for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020, which applies to facility plans beginning on or after October 1, 2019, to **3 3/8 percent (3.375%)**, which should be used until the rate’s annual update occurring in October 2020. This is a correction to the article run in Volume 8, Issue 07 on 12/05/2019.

Submit Facilities Plans Early for SFY 21 CWFP Projects

If you decide to apply for funding for your eligible project listed on the CWFP SFY 2021 PPL, you must have facility plan approval for the application to be complete.

Submit the facilities plan to the DNR Bureau of Water Quality for approval, under ch. NR 110, Wis. Adm. Code.

Requirements

Requirements for submitting a facilities plan are explained in DNR’s Wastewater Facility Planning Studies. Any project seeking CWFP funds must be submitted to the department for plan review and approval, regardless of a “reviewable” or “maintenance” project classification.

Assistance

For assistance with facilities plans, contact the DNR wastewater systems plan review staff. They can give you technical comments that might expedite plan approval.

Submit facilities plan **6 months before application deadline**

To ensure you receive the facilities plan approval letter by the application deadline, we encourage you to submit the facilities plan early on to allow ample time for review.

Preferably, you would submit your facilities plan to the department for approval **at least six months before the CWFP application submittal deadline**.

For SFY 2021 Principal Forgiveness (PF):

• Submit facilities plan for DNR review by 04/03/2020.
• Submit CWFP PF Application by 09/30/2020 deadline.

Concurrent submittals

If the facilities plan is submitted concurrent with the plans & specifications, provide sufficient lead time, **preferably 6 months**, before the CWFP application submittal deadline for completion of the facilities plan review.

2020 Disbursement Schedule and Calendar

The visual aids for the disbursement schedule and calendar have been updated for calendar year 2020. Download the disbursement schedule with 12-month calendar for both Environmental Loans programs, the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP).

• Banks are closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, in observance of Veterans Day. Disbursements and loan closings will occur on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

• On Wednesday, December 23, 2020, disbursements will occur. No loan closings will occur on the 23rd.

Revised Form 8700-215 Available

• View Request for Disbursement Form 8700-215.

CWFP SFY 20 Readiness to Proceed Deadline

In an effort to award principal forgiveness (PF) to projects that are ready to proceed with construction, the Clean Water Fund Program has imposed a readiness-to-proceed deadline for projects that are allocated PF on the Funding List.

All required bid documentation (including an executed construction contract) is required to be submitted to the assigned project manager no later than **June 30, 2020** – the end of the state fiscal year. This approach helps to encourage the timely use of PF funds as is preferred by EPA.

Please note that the readiness-to-proceed deadline does not apply to CWFP projects that are not receiving PF.
With a few exceptions, Construction Management Engineers (CMEs) work on projects located in the counties they serve.

The counties served by each CME are roughly similar to the commonly referenced Wisconsin DNR Regions, but there are multiple differences.

In order to more clearly give customers a sense of the CME that will be assigned to the project, Environmental Loans staff created a color-coordinated map displaying the counties served by each CME.

Users may interact with the map, search for cities, or click on counties to see more details.

The counties that a CME serves occasionally change depending on the amount of projects that are occurring in a given “region,” staff travel time, etc.

As changes are made to the counties served by CMEs, the map will be updated accordingly and impacted municipalities will be notified.

Please direct any questions or comments about the map to Casey Sweeney at Casey.Sweeney@Wisconsin.gov.

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**Map of the Counties Served by Each CME**

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**Northern Region — Dave Andruczyk**

**West Central Region — Charlie Cameron**
Adams, Barron, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Saint Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, & Wood.

**South Central Region — Bernie Robertson**
Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, & Sauk.

**Southeast Region — Frank Fuja**
Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, & Waukesha.

**Northeast Region — Bob Hannes**
Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, & Winnebago.

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