Inside this Issue

Market Rate Unchanged 1
Online Systems Update 1
Pilot Projects Eligibility 1
Upcoming Deadlines 1
PSC Applications Due September 15th 2
SFY 2022 CWFP PF Applications Due September 30th 2
Draft CWFP IUP for SFY 2022 Posted for Public Comment 3
ARPA Treasury Interim Rule 3
Free Webinar: American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Water Bill Assistance and Infrastructure Projects 3

Market Rate Unchanged

There is no change in the EIF market rate for loans with municipal meetings (resolutions approving the municipal obligations and the financial assistance agreements) on or after July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

- EIF market rate for loans that have a final maturity of 20 years or less will be 2.700%.
- EIF market rate for loans that have a final maturity greater than 20 years but less than or equal to 30 years will be 2.90%.


Online Systems Update

If you are using the online application or ITA/PERF systems between the hours of 5pm and 7am and you are inactive for 15 minutes, you will get an inactivity notice and have 5 minutes to respond or you will be automatically logged out of the system and will lose any unsaved changes. Between 7am and 5pm you will not be automatically logged out.

Pilot Projects Eligibility

The Clean Water Fund Program launched its Pilot Projects Program (PPP) for funding non-traditional projects last fall. Our focus has been on funding projects that reduce phosphorus pollution of waterways, including water quality trading projects.

Although previous publicity included adaptive management projects among the types of projects that may be eligible for pilot project funding, due to issues surrounding adaptive management plan review and approval and how those relate to CWFP funding policies, the DNR is suspending the eligibility of adaptive management projects at this time.

Water quality trading and other non-traditional projects for compliance with a municipality’s Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
PSC Applications Due September 15th

**September 15, 2021** is the DNR’s last recommended date to submit rate case applications to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for State Fiscal Year 2022 Safe Drinking Water Loan Program projects.

One of the requirements for closing a SDWLP loan is that the municipal utility has water rates in place that are adequate to repay the loan and continue proper operation of its water system. In order to incorporate costs associated with a major construction project into rates, a utility potentially needs to file a Conventional Rate Case (CRC) with PSC.

Commission staff screen all rate case applications for completeness and do not begin work on incomplete applications. All required documentation must be submitted with the application for it to be considered complete.

While processing times will vary depending on the time of year a utility files a rate case application, the length of time since the utility’s last CRC, the complexity of issues involved in the application, and other factors, the PSC’s goal is to process an application within 200 days after receipt of a complete application.

SFY 2022 CWFP PF Applications Due September 30th

State Fiscal Year 2022 Clean Water Fund Program financial assistance applications must be submitted online by September 30, 2021, if competing for principal forgiveness. For assistance with the application, refer to:

- CWFP Application Process & Contents
- CWFP Online Application Help Text

Applications are accepted the entire fiscal year for those projects not seeking principal forgiveness.

**Plans and specifications reminder**

Submit approvable, biddable plans and specifications to the DNR Bureau of Water Quality by the September 30th application deadline. Follow requirements as explained in the DNR’s Plan Submittal Requirements for Sewerage Systems. An additional, electronic copy of approvable, biddable plans and specifications must be uploaded with the application for all portions of the project for which funding is being requested.

**Facility plans**

An approved facility plan is a requirement of the application. If you have a project that you have not submitted a facility plan for, please contact plan review staff as soon as possible to determine if review is feasible by this year’s application deadline.

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. For example, an abbreviated form of a facilities plan, or “Engineering Report”, is required even for sanitary sewer replacement or rehabilitation projects, if seeking CWFP funding.

The Engineering Report covers certain federal requirements such as the cost effectiveness analysis and the environmental analysis. View the “Collection System Projects” section of the Wastewater Facility Planning Studies webpage for a list of what elements should be included in the report.

**PERF score reevaluation requests**

You may request a PERF score reevaluation within 30 days of the application deadline. Some of the reasons that an applicant may request a reevaluation include not all supporting documentation was uploaded with the original submittal, or the incorrect PERF form was originally submitted. Contact Lisa.Bushby@Wisconsin.gov, Clean Water Fund Coordinator, if you would like to pursue a PERF score reevaluation. The deadline to submit a PERF score reevaluation is October 30, 2021.
Draft CWFP Intended Use Plan for SFY 2022 Posted for Public Comment

The draft CWFP Intended Use Plan (IUP) for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 was posted for a 21-day public comment period on July 21, 2021. Comments on the IUP will be taken through Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Direct them to Becky Scott at Rebecca.Scott@Wisconsin.gov.

The draft IUP identifies funds available for SFY 2022, loan terms, expected program activity, applicable policies, program goals, how federal requirements are being met, information on the Pilot Projects Program, and water quality scoring criteria for SFY 2023 projects.

It also describes the disadvantaged communities program and allocation of principal forgiveness (PF), including the three Priority PF programs which provide additional PF for regionalization projects, phosphorus reduction projects, and as matching funds for Focus on Energy awards for energy efficiency improvements. One significant change in this area is that applicants are no longer required to qualify as disadvantaged to receive regionalization or energy efficiency PF.

Additional items discussed in this IUP include further clarification on policies regarding PF and a change to no longer requiring Fiscal Sustainability Plans (FSP).

ARPA Treasury Interim Rule

The federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) allocated $20 billion to so-called non-entitlement units of local government, generally municipalities with fewer than 50,000 residents. Most Wisconsin municipalities are non-entitlement units. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue distributes ARPA money to non-entitlement governments. Find more information at https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/SLF/ARPA.aspx. Larger Wisconsin municipalities receive money directly from the US Treasury through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

The US Treasury determines eligible uses of this money, including for sewer and water infrastructure projects.


The frequently asked questions address sewer and water directly in section six, but other sections may also apply. Treasury has and may continue to clarify and change eligibility requirements. ARPA recipients should frequently revisit the interim final rule and frequently asked questions to stay up to date with new information. You may want to contact a municipal advisor for guidance on eligible projects.

Free Webinar: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Water Bill Assistance and Infrastructure Projects

Thursday, August 12, 2021

1pm - 2:15pm Eastern

Registrants must sign in or create an account with Government Finance Officers Assoc. (GFOA) when registering

Legislative activity on Capitol Hill in the year 2020 was dominated by the development of multiple aid packages in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

To address the vital need for widespread access to drinking water & wastewater utilities, Congress has authorized billions to assist households and utilities with water utility affordability and stormwater infrastructure projects.

Join experts from the GFOA and Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN) for an introduction to ARPA, the Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), and Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to learn what to expect when dealing with these federal assistance programs.

Please contact training@gfoa.org if you need assistance with registration.

Certificates of attendance will not be provided for this webinar. This webinar is not preapproved by state agencies for continuing education credits.