

Next Steps for Drinking Water Applicants of the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program



Refer to the [Safe Drinking Water Loan Program \(SDWLP\) State Fiscal Year \(SFY\) 2027 Project Priority List](#) to find your project's self-PERF (priority) score and priority ranking. Direct any questions about the application process to the SDWLP coordinator at Noah.Balگوoyen@wisconsin.gov.

Deadline

For SFY 2027 funding, you must submit your SDWLP financial assistance application with all [required documentation](#) through the [online application system](#):

- If competing for [principal forgiveness \(PF\)](#), applicants must submit the complete SDWLP application by **June 30, 2026**.
- If not competing for PF during SFY 2027, it is recommended that applicants submit an application by the June 30, 2026, deadline due to potential limitations with [loan capacity](#).

Plan Reviews by DNR Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau

Determine and follow **engineering report** and **plans and specifications** submittal requirements from the DNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater; refer to the [Public Water System Plan Review webpage](#).

- Submit required copies of approvable, biddable construction plans and specifications to the DNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater **for each portion of the project** for which you are seeking funding. For well projects, submit at least the **final well construction** plans and specifications by the application submittal deadline; the rest of the well project plans and specifications may be submitted later, but provide enough lead time before the loan closing for the DNR to complete the review.

Accomplish As Soon As Possible

- Conduct an [Environmental Review](#).
- Pass a [Reimbursement Resolution](#).
- Required rate increases must be in effect before the loan closing. [Application to Increase Water Rates](#) may take up to six months.
- [PSC Construction Authorization](#), if required for your project, must be granted prior to loan closing.

Federal Requirements

Applicants must comply with:

- [Davis-Bacon and Related Acts \(DBRA\)](#)
- [Disadvantaged Business Enterprises \(DBEs\)](#)
- [Environmental Review](#)
- [American Iron and Steel \(AIS\)](#)
- [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\)](#) – required only for projects designated as [federal equivalency](#), lead service line projects and emerging contaminants (e.g., PFAS) projects.

Split or Multiple Projects

The DNR will split a multi-purpose project scope described in a single notice of intent to apply submittal [into two or more distinct projects](#) for scoring purposes in order to most accurately and fairly score all projects that are submitted. On future submittals to the DNR, be sure to use the unique project number and new scope description.

Preconstruction Meeting Reminder

If SDWLP financial assistance will be sought for a project, contact the regional DNR [construction management engineer \(CME\)](#) to confirm their availability **at least one week prior to scheduling** the preconstruction meeting. If the meeting is rescheduled or canceled, promptly notify the CME. For details, refer to the [Construction Management webpage](#).

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the application process, contact:

- Noah Balgooyen, Safe Drinking Water Loan Program coordinator, at Noah.Balgooyen@wisconsin.gov
- Kate Leja-Brennan, Lead Service Line Replacement Program specialist, at Kathryn.Leja@wisconsin.gov
- Ryan Atkinson, Emerging Contaminants Programs specialist, at Ryan.Atkinson@wisconsin.gov

For more info on the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, visit our website at dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html.

[Legal Notices](#): This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing 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 (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc.) upon request. Please call 608-235-7105 for more information.