# DG Study Group Meeting

May 7, 2026

# WI Lead Pipe Ban

Molly Wells & Steve Elmore, *WI DNR*

# NR 809 Rulemaking Updates

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Management Division

Bureau of Drinking Water and Ground Water

# NR 809 Rulemaking Updates

## April 27, 2026

- Revised NR 809 published

## May 1, 2026

- Effective date of LCRR requirements in NR 809

# Review of Wisconsin's Lead Pipe and Lead Solder Bans

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Management Division
Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater

# Agenda

- **Federal and State Lead Pipe Ban Dates**
- Scope of Review
- Lead Solder and Lead Pipe Ban Language
- Impact on Public Water Systems

# Federal Lead Pipe Ban

1986

Promulgated

1988

Effective

# Wisconsin Lead Pipe Ban

June 21, 1988

Promulgated

July 1, 1988

Effective

# Wisconsin Lead Solder Ban

August 31, 1985

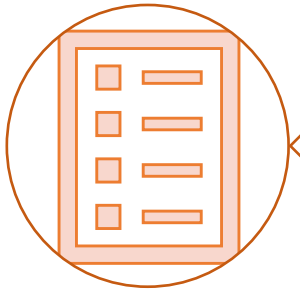
Promulgated

September 1, 1985

Effective

# Impact on Public Water Systems

- The 1988 WI lead ban date affects compliance with some LCRI requirements in the revised NR 809:



Baseline inventory

Nonlead validation

# Agenda

- Federal and State Lead Pipe Ban Dates
- **Scope of Review**
- Lead Solder and Lead Pipe Ban Language
- Impact on Public Water Systems

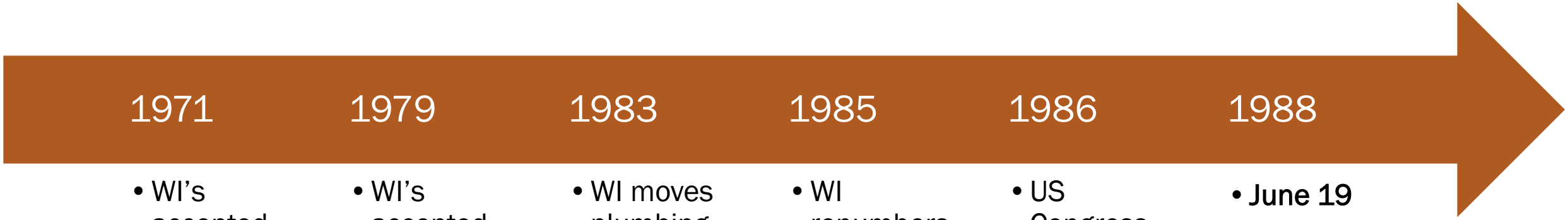
# Reason for lead pipe ban review

- Recent inquiries about whether the state had banned lead before the 1986 federal lead ban promulgation
- WDNR conducted review of Wis. Admin. Codes and Stats. to investigate potential lead ban before federal lead ban
- The goal of review was to determine the dates of the state's lead pipe ban

# WI Stat & Admin Code Review

- Reviewed WI Statutes and Acts 1971-1988
- Reviewed WI Admin Codes 1971-1988
- From 1971-1988, WI Plumbing Code regulated materials in water distribution and plumbing systems
  - H 62
  - ILHR 84

# WI Plumbing Code Timeline



**1971**

- WI's accepted materials list includes lead

**1979**

- WI's accepted materials list does not include lead

**1983**

- WI moves plumbing code from H to ILHR

**1985**

- WI renumbers plumbing code
- WI adopts lead solder ban

**1986**

- US Congress promulgates lead pipe ban

**1988**

- **June 19**
  **Federal lead pipe ban takes effect**
- **June 21**
  **WI adopts lead pipe ban**
- **July 1**
  **WI lead pipe ban takes effect**

# Agenda

- Federal and State Lead Pipe Ban Dates
- Scope of Review
- **Lead Solder and Lead Pipe Ban Language**
- Impact on Public Water Systems

# 1985 WI lead solder ban

(17) JOINTS BETWEEN PIPE AND FITTINGS OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS. (a) *General.* Joints between different piping materials shall be made with a mechanical joint of the compression or mechanical sealing type, unless otherwise permitted in this chapter.

(b) *Copper or copper alloy pipe to cast iron hub pipe.* Joints between copper or copper alloy pipe and cast iron hub pipe shall be made by use of a brass ferrule. The copper or copper alloy tubing shall be properly soldered to the ferrule, and the ferrule shall be joined to the cast iron hub by a caulked joint or mechanical compression joint. If the tubing and ferrule are part of a water supply system, a lead-free solder and, when required, a lead-free flux shall be used to make the joint. Lead-free shall mean a chemical composition equal to or less than 0.2% of lead.

(c) *Copper or copper alloy pipe to galvanized steel pipe.* Joints between copper or copper alloy pipe and galvanized steel pipe shall be made by the use of a brass converter fitting or dielectric fitting. The copper tubing shall be properly soldered to the fitting, and the fitting shall be screwed to the threaded pipe. If the tubing and fitting are part of a water supply system, a lead-free solder and, when required, a lead-free flux shall be used to make the joint. Lead-free shall mean a chemical composition equal to or less than 0.2% of lead.

# 1988 WI lead pipe ban

SECTION 1. ILHR 84.30 (4) (intro.) is amended to read:

ILHR 84.30 (4) WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS. Water supply systems shall be of such material and workmanship as set forth in this subsection. All materials in contact with water, in a water supply system, shall be suitable for use with potable water. All pipes and pipe fittings for water supply systems shall be made of a material that contains not more than 8.0 percent lead.

SECTION 2. ILHR 84.30-11, Note b, is created to read:

Table 84.30-11, Note b: See s. ILHR 84.30 (4) (intro.) concerning the maximum lead content for fittings.

# 1988 WI lead pipe ban

ANALYSIS OF RULES

Statutory authority ss. 101.02 (1) and 145.02 (2), Stats.
Statutes interpreted s. 145.02 (1); Stats.

Under s. 145.02, Stats., the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations has the responsibility of safeguarding public health and the waters of the state relative to the construction, installation and maintenance of plumbing. One mechanism of the Department to fulfill this responsibility has been the promulgation of the state uniform plumbing code.

The proposed rules bring the plumbing code into alignment with the 1986 Amendments of the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act, Pub. L. 99-339, June 19, 1986. One provision of these Amendments mandates a maximum lead content of 8.0 percent for pipes and fittings of water supply systems. The Amendments of the Safe Drinking Water Act require states to adopt such a standard by June 19, 1988, otherwise, the United States Environmental Protection Agency may withhold up to 5 percent of a state's Public Water System Supervision program grant.

# 1988 WI lead pipe ban

Adopted at Madison, Wisconsin, this

date: June 21, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, LABOR AND HUMAN RELATIONS

Secretary

# Agenda

- Federal and State Lead Pipe Ban Dates
- Scope of Review
- Lead Solder and Lead Pipe Ban Language
- **Impact on Public Water Systems**

# Impact on Public Water Systems

- The 1988 WI lead ban date affects compliance with some LCRI requirements in the revised NR 809:


# Baseline Inventory Impact

- PWSs will use June 19, 1988, as date of lead ban when classifying materials in baseline inventories:
  - PWSs with an earlier local or municipal lead ban can still use that earlier date to identify nonlead materials in their baseline inventories
  - Some PWSs will need to update service line material classifications and bases for their baseline inventory

# Baseline Inventory Impact

## *Public Water Systems (PWS) affected*

5.4% of PWSs in WI have at least one SL identified as nonlead based on being “installed after lead ban” and the install date was in 1986 or 1987

| System type | Number | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Non-Transient Noncommunity | 0 | 0% |
| Other-than-Municipal Community | 6 | 1.5% |
| Municipal Community | 96 | 15.7% |
| **TOTAL, all types** | **102** | **5.4%** |

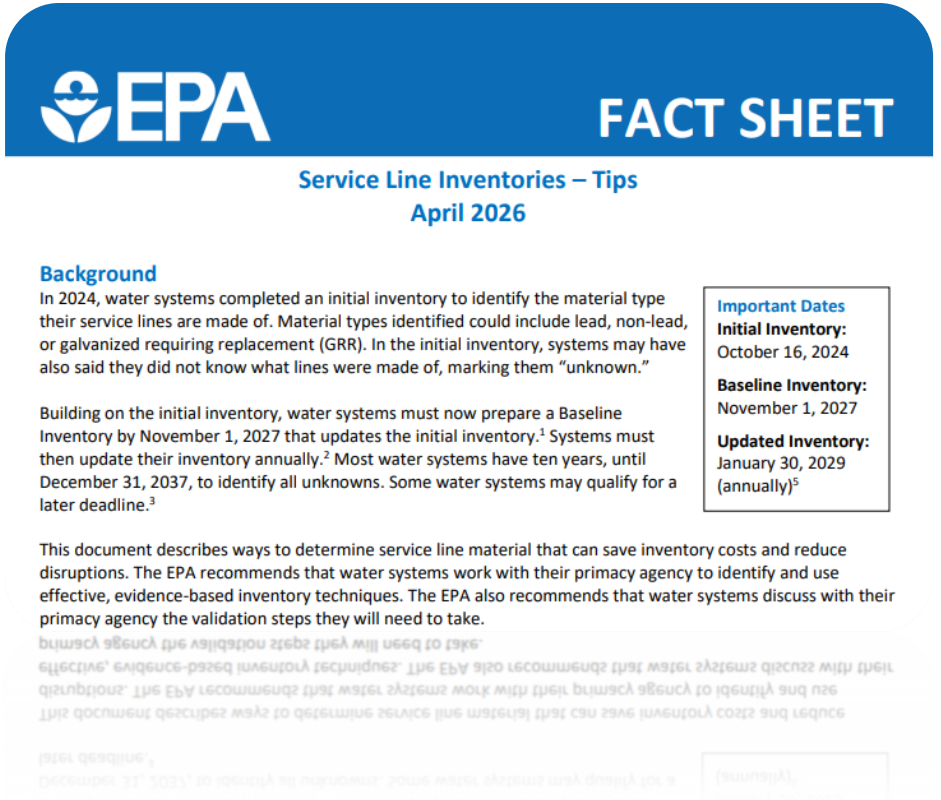
# Nonlead Validation

- PWS must validate a random sample of their nonlead service lines by 2034
- The LCRI and new State rule specify which nonlead lines must be included in the validation pool
- Lines classified as nonlead using a record demonstrating install after June 19, 1988, do **not** need to be included in validation pool

# New Flexibilities for Baseline Inventories

The draft EPA Factsheet “Service Line Inventory Tips”* suggests that EPA is opening the door to new flexibilities that could significantly reduce the number of service lines that PWS will have to investigate in the field for baseline inventories.

- ✓ Supports the use of statistical analysis and predictive modeling to identify service line materials.
- ✓ Opens the door to allowing “personnel experience” as a basis for material classification under some conditions



EPA FACT SHEET

Service Line Inventories – Tips
April 2026

**Background**

In 2024, water systems completed an initial inventory to identify the material type their service lines are made of. Material types identified could include lead, non-lead, or galvanized requiring replacement (GRR). In the initial inventory, systems may have also said they did not know what lines were made of, marking them “unknown.”

Building on the initial inventory, water systems must now prepare a Baseline Inventory by November 1, 2027 that updates the initial inventory.[1] Systems must then update their inventory annually.[2] Most water systems have ten years, until December 31, 2037, to identify all unknowns. Some water systems may qualify for a later deadline.[3]

**Important Dates**
**Initial Inventory:** October 16, 2024
**Baseline Inventory:** November 1, 2027
**Updated Inventory:** January 30, 2029 (annually)[5]

This document describes ways to determine service line material that can save inventory costs and reduce disruptions. The EPA recommends that water systems work with their primacy agency to identify and use effective, evidence-based inventory techniques. The EPA also recommends that water systems discuss with their primacy agency the validation steps they will need to take.

*https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-04/forcomment_lcri_service-line-inventory-tips_0.pdf

# Supports for Baseline Inventories

- Instructional information, presentations, and resources coming fall 2026
- Information and technical assistance from DNR lead and copper field specialists
- Free technical assistance with baseline inventory development from Jacobs Engineering.
- The scope of Jacob’s free technical assistance will be expanded to include potholing for some small water systems, beginning next year

# State Rule Updates

## Fall 2026

- Resources and trainings available

## Nov 1, 2027

- Compliance date for LCRI requirements in NR 809

# Questions

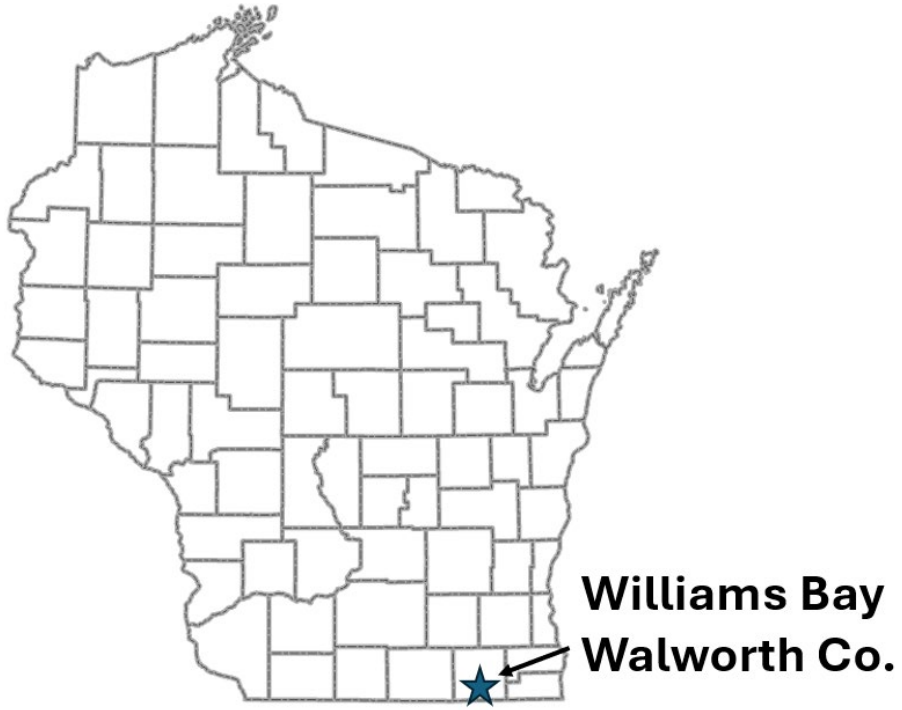
# Williams Bay Nitrite

Jesse Jensen, *WI DNR*

On Wednesday, August 20, 2025, the Walworth County Health Department received a report about two children being diagnosed with **Methemoglobinemia** in the village of Williams Bay, WI.

The report stated that the resident used a home test kit which indicated the results for **Nitrate were over 100 mg/L** and **Nitrite over 20 mg/L**.

The home reportedly was served by a **municipal water supply**.



# Overview of Presentation

I. What happened at Williams Bay Waterworks?

II. What were the contributing factors and how was the situation resolved?

III. How can other municipal water systems avoid this from occurring?

# I. What happened at Williams Bay Waterworks?

# Village of Williams Bay

- Located in Walworth County
- Adjacent to Geneva Lake
- Population: 2,953
- Popular Tourist/Vacation Destination

# Williams Bay Waterworks

- Serves a population of 2,601 residents.
- Regulated by the Wisconsin DNR as “Municipal Community” Public Water System
- 3 Well System (2 Shallow, 1 Deep)
- Nearing completion of treatment plant upgrades (Nov 2025)

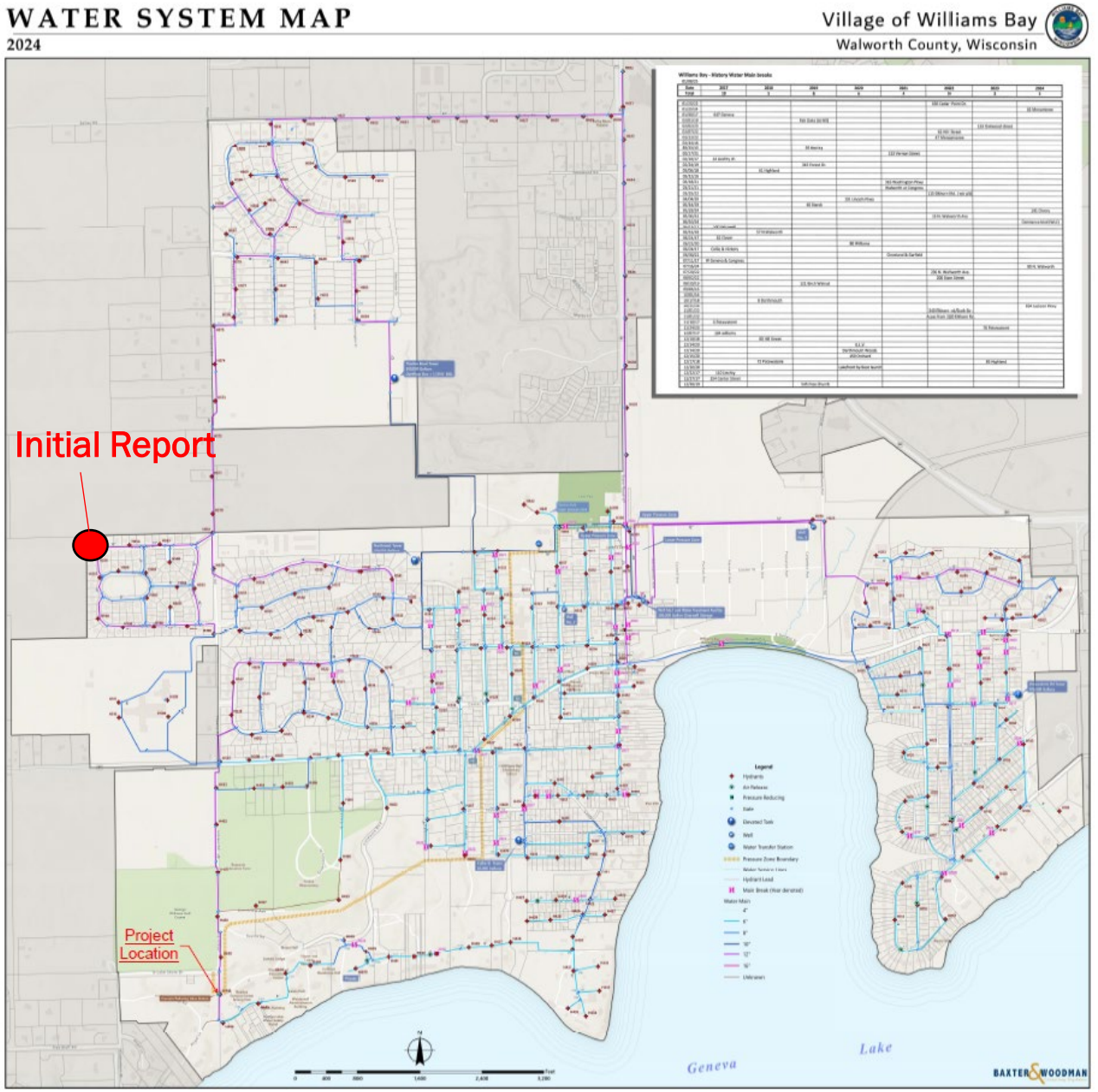
# Initial Report

Nitrate = 100 mg/L (MCL=10mg/L)

Nitrite = 20 mg/L (MCL=1mg/L)

IMPORANT NOTES:

- Resident used “home test kit” → not as reliable as laboratory testing
- Home located in subdivision:
  - “Dead end” line
  - Surrounded by Agriculture Fields
  - Stormwater Pond in Backyard



# Local Response to Initial Report

- Williams Bay Waterworks flushed the nearby hydrants located on “dead end” line

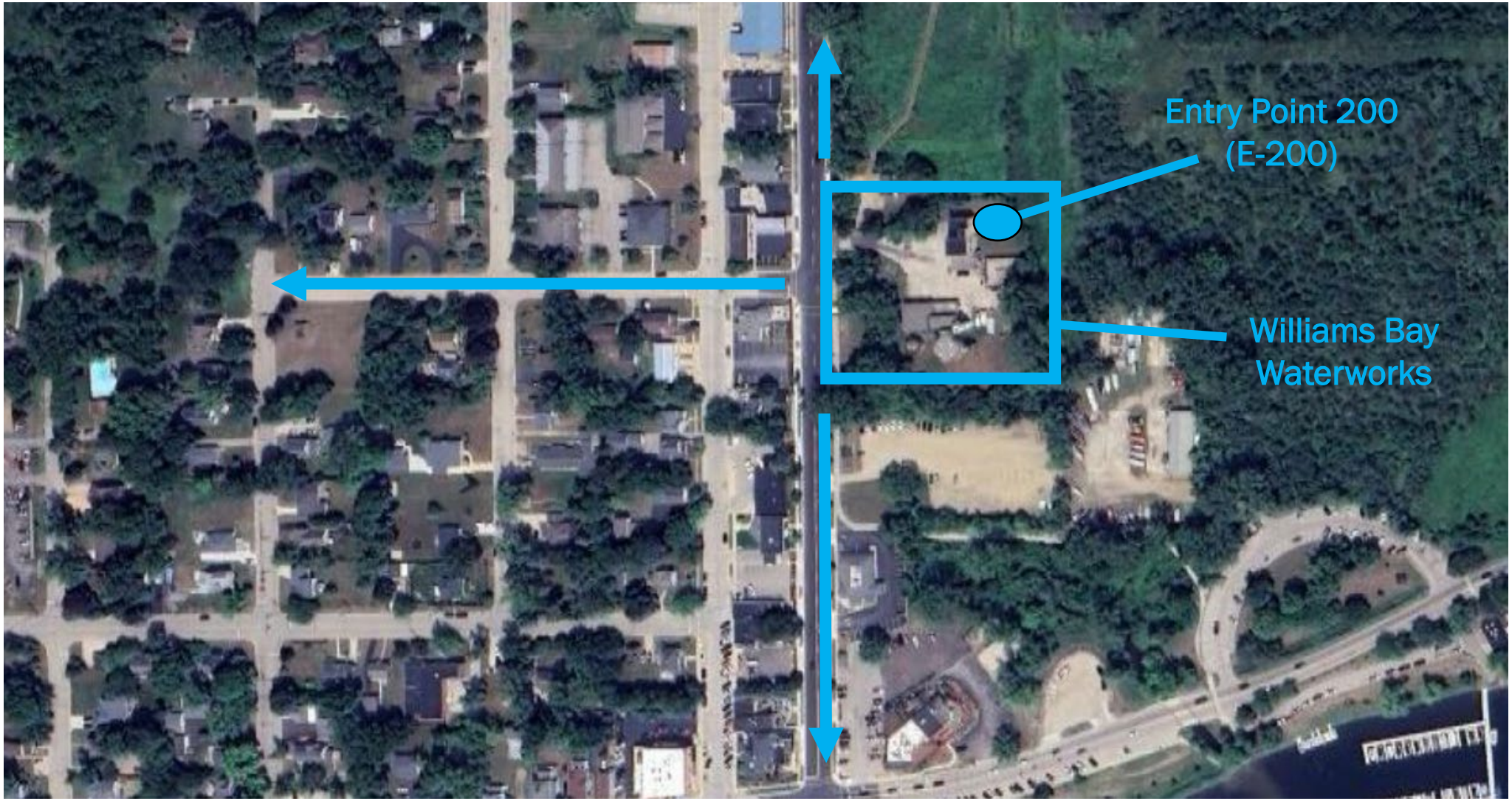
- Walworth County Health Department collected follow-up samples from the home for Nitrate and Nitrite

- Being a regulated MC system, the Walworth County notified the Wisconsin DNR. The department requested additional samples to be taken across system, targeting areas with low turnover and longer residence times in the distribution system.

# DNR Reviews Compliance Sampling History

| Date | Nitrate (mg/L) | Nitrite (mg/L) |
|---|---|---|
| 07/30/25 | 0.1 | 0 |
| 06/25/25 | 0.089 | 0 |
| 03/17/25 | 0.11 | 0.2 |
| 08/28/24 | 0.067 | 0.1 |
| 04/16/24 | 0.11 | 0.085 |
| 02/01/24 | 0.17 | 0.11 |
| MCL | 10 | 1.0 |

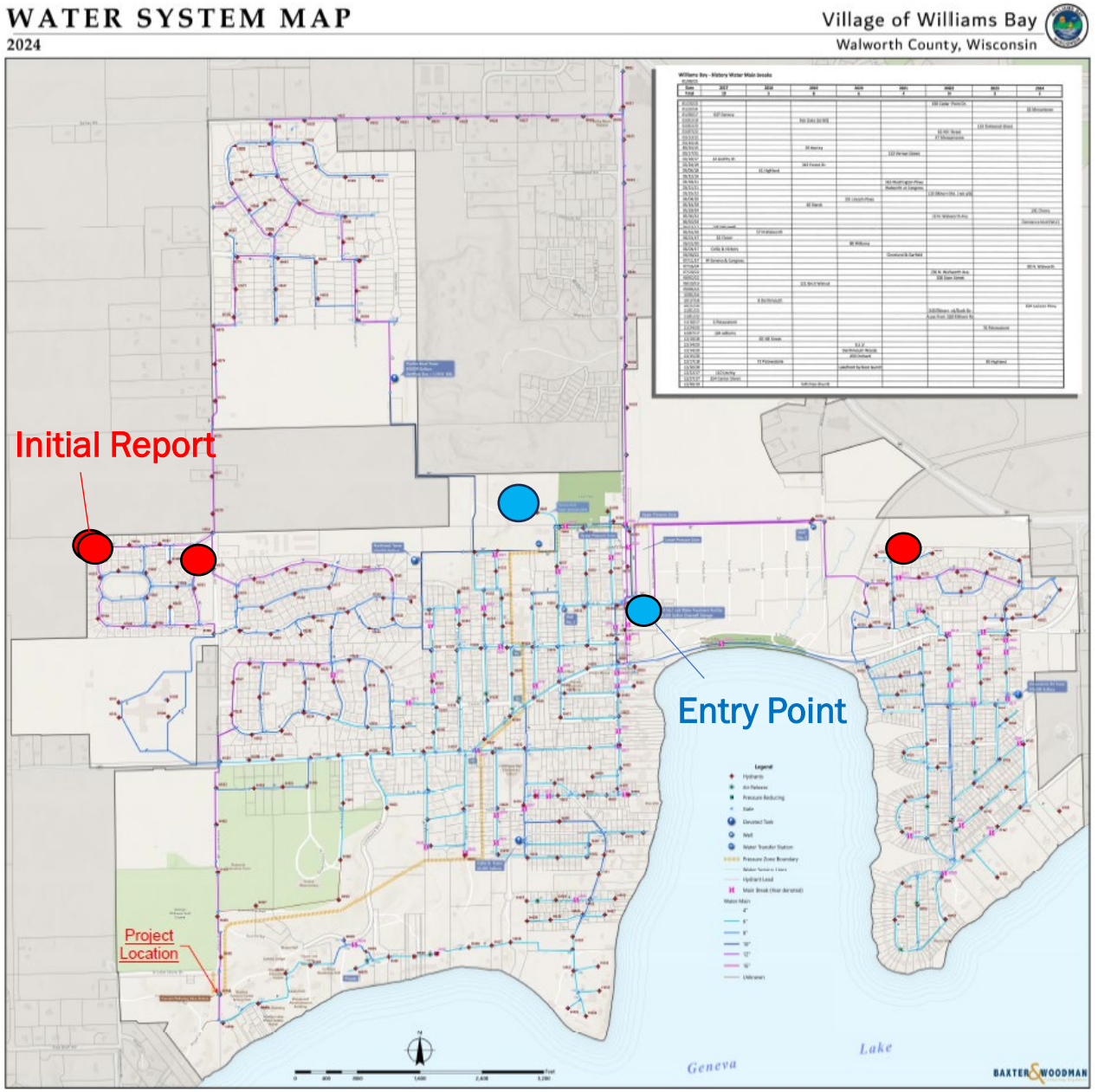
IMPORTANT NOTE:
The point of compliance for Nitrate/Nitrite sampling is the "**Entry Point**"




**Entry Point (EP)** is a location in the public water system after treatment or chemical addition, if any, but prior to the distribution system. The Safe Drinking Water Act bases compliance for Nitrate/Nitrite off the results taken from the entry point.

# Follow-up sampling **confirms Nitrite MCL exceedance**

- Nitrate = 1.125 mg/L
- Nitrite = **2.5 mg/L**



August 27, 2025

# WATER ALERT
## Williams Bay Waterworks water is contaminated with high levels of nitrite

**DO NOT DRINK OR COOK WITH YOUR WATER**
Failure to follow this advisory could result in illness.

Williams Bay Waterworks is advising residents of the Village of Williams Bay to NOT USE THE TAP WATER FOR DRINKING AND COOKING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

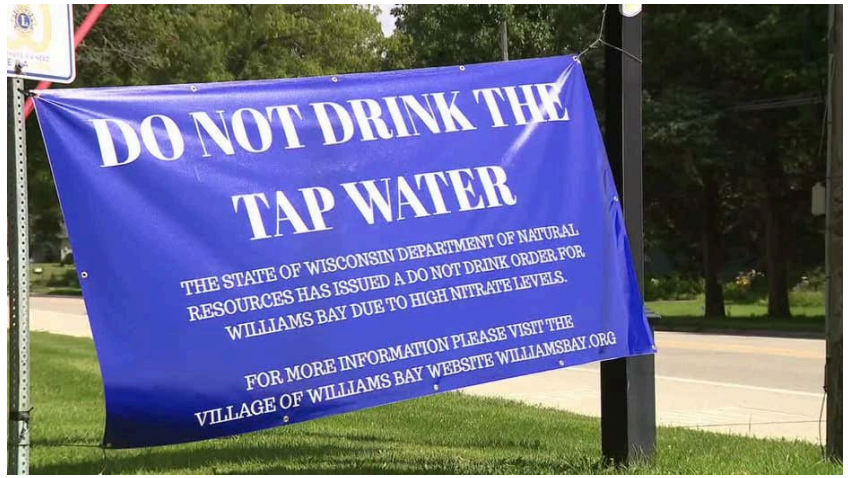
Tap water can be used for showering, hand/dish washing, and toilet flushing while this notice is in place.

Water quality testing indicate elevated levels of nitrite in the drinking water supplied by the Williams Bay Waterworks. Nitrite levels in some samples exceed the safe drinking water standard of 1 milligram per liter (mg/L). Based on these initial sample results, Williams Bay Waterworks is advising consumers to not drink the water.

What should I do?

- DO NOT DRINK YOUR TAP WATER – USE ONLY BOTTLED WATER. Bottled water should be used for all drinking (including baby formula and juice), brushing teeth, making ice and food preparation **until further notice**.

- DO NOT TRY AND TREAT THE WATER YOURSELF. Boiling, freezing, adding chlorine or other disinfectants, or letting water stand will not make the water safe.


WATER BOTTLE
DISTRIBUTION
3-7PM DAILY
WILLIAMS BAY
HIGH SCHOOL
watchfire
Williams Bay
SCHOOLS

WTMJ-TV MILWAUKEE

MENU LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SPORTS TRAFFIC WATCH NOW

1 WX Alert | Milwaukee County | Waukesha County | Racine County | Kenosha County | Washington County | More +



NEWS > LOCAL NEWS > IN YOUR COMMUNITY > WALWORTH COUNTY

# Resident voice concerns as Williams Bay water crisis continues

A do-not-drink order for tap water remains in effect for Williams Bay after the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources detected unsafe levels of nitrites in the water system.

By: Megan Lee

*Posted 5:51 PM, Sep 02, 2025 and last updated 10:36 PM, Sep 02, 2025*

WILLIAMS BAY, Wis. — A do-not-drink order for tap water remains in effect for Williams Bay after the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources detected unsafe levels of nitrites in the water system.

CBS58 NEWS WEATHER SPORTS HOMETOWNS SUNDAY MORNING SWEEPSTAKE

NEWS

# Public meeting held on Williams Bay 'Do Not Drink' order, officials say water expected to be drinkable by end of week

By: Jacob Murphy

**Posted:** Sep 2, 2025 5:47 PM CDT | **Updated:** Sep 2, 2025 10:09 PM CDT


**NOW:** Public meeting held on Williams Bay 'Do Not Drink' order, officials say water expected to be drinkable by end of week

**NEXT:** Port Washington Tax Increment District referendum passes, giving...

WILLIAMS BAY, Wis. (CBS 58) – People in Williams Bay have been forced to not use their tap water for the last six days because of an order saying it's unsafe. Tuesday night, those people had their first chance to speak out about concerns.

The Village of Williams Bay hosted a town hall public meeting at the Williams Bay School campus.

The meeting comes on day six of the order advising people in the village not to use tap water for drinking, cooking, or activities like brushing their teeth.

A couple hundred people attended the meeting, hearing from the village and officials from the DNR and health department.

FOX6 LIVE News Weather Sports WakeUp Things To Do Contests More

# Williams Bay water contaminated; high temps led to increased nitrite

By Ashley Sears | Published August 29, 2025 5:11pm CDT | Williams Bay | FOX6 News Milwaukee |

## VILLAGE OF WILLIAMS BAY

250 Williams Street | PO Box 580 | Williams Bay | WI | 53191 | vi.williamsbay.wi.gov
Phone: 262-245-2700

**NOTICE**

### VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 AT 6:30 PM**
**Williams Bay School District**
**250 Theatre Road**
**Williams Bay, WI 53191**

**This meeting will be live-streamed on the Williams Bay School District's YouTube page.**
**Please see the following link:** https://youtube.com/live/iJdT6C34R7E?feature=share

**AGENDA**

**The following agenda items may be considered for Discussion, Consideration, or Action**

**I.** **Call to Order**

**II.** **Roll Call**

**III.** **Pledge of Allegiance**

**IV.** **Meeting Decorum**

- **A.** Meeting Decorum. *According to Robert's Rules of Order, meeting decorum means maintaining respectful and orderly behavior during a discussion, including addressing the chair to speak, staying relevant to the topic at hand, avoiding personal attacks, and generally adhering to courteous conduct while debating issues; essentially, ensuring that discussions are focused and civil, with only one person speaking at a time when recognized by the chair. Violators of meeting decorum will be excused from the meeting.*

**V.** **Minutes**

- **A.** Village Board Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2025

**VI.** **Presentation of accounts and petitions**

- **A.** Payroll ending 08-22-2025 in the amount of $57,485.36
- **B.** Accounts Payable Unpaids dated 08-29-2025 in the amount of $520,298.45
- **C.** Accounts Payable Prepaids dated 08-22-2025 in the amount of $20.00

**VII.** **Other Items for Discussion, Consideration, or Action**

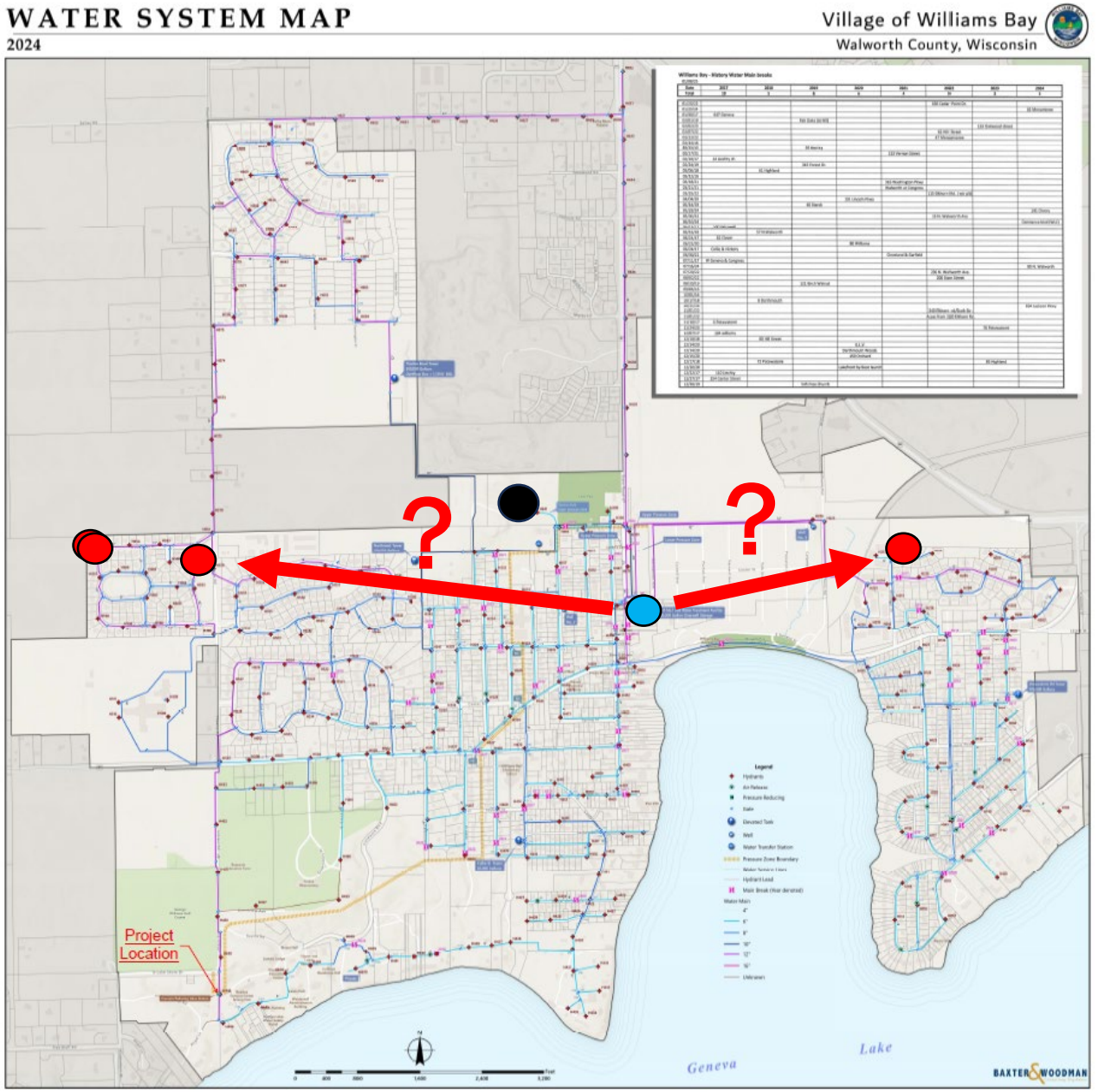
- **A.** Updates and Discussion on the Village of Williams Bay Water Do Not Drink Order

**VIII.** **Public Comments**

- **A.** Public Comments Responses - Responses to Public Comments from the previous Village Board Meeting are included in the Meeting Packet Materials Under this Agenda Item
- **B.** *Individual public comments will be limited to two (2) minutes maximum. If your comments align with other comments before you, please consider stating that you are in agreement with those comments. The public may speak on any item that is not included on this agenda as a "Public Hearing or Forum."*

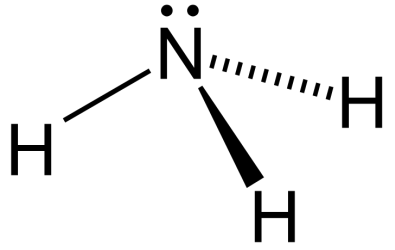



*How can you have water low in nitrate/nitrite at the entry point, but high in the distribution system?*



## II. What factors contribute to the issues at Williams Bay and how was the situation resolved?

# Contributing Factors




- Williams Bay has an elevated level of **ammonia** in their source water wells
  - Nitrogen in the form of ammonia would not be detected through standard compliance sampling (not a regulated contaminant)

- Ideal conditions for the nitrification process
  - Source of reduced nitrogen (ammonia) and other required elements (metals)
  - Nitrifying bacteria (biofilm) established in distribution system
  - Summer Months = Warm temperatures (July-August)
  - Long Residence Time = Initial report came from resident on “dead end” line

# Nitrification

- Microbial process by which reduced nitrogen compounds (primarily ammonia) are sequentially oxidized to nitrite and nitrate

*-United States Environmental Protection Agency*

- Under the right conditions, this process can occur within the distribution of a public water system
  - ➢ This could explain why nitrate/nitrite were low at the entry point, but high at the end user!

# Williams Bay Takes Action

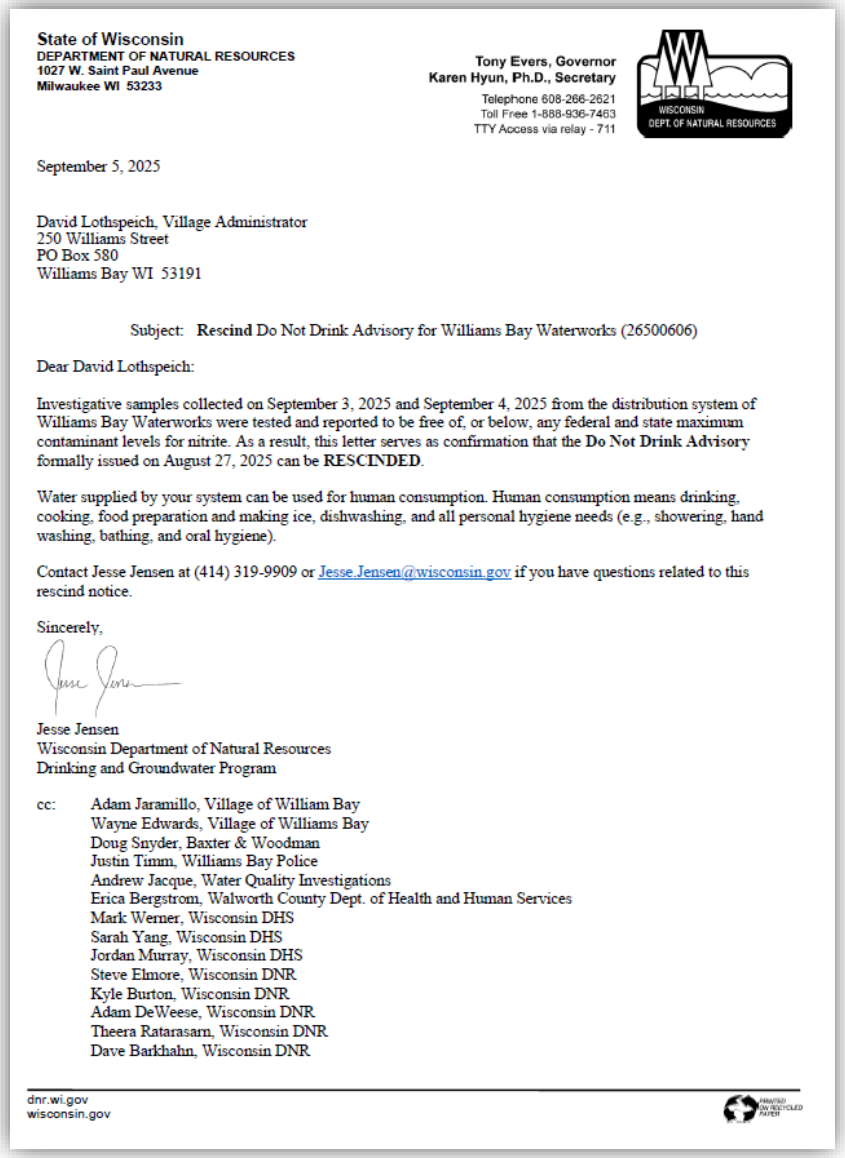
Once the problem was identified, Williams Bay Waterworks implemented the following measures:

- ✓ **Partial Breakpoint Chlorination** = Break-up ammonia coming from source water
- ✓ **Boost Cl- Residual** = Kill nitrifying bacteria (biofilms) within distribution system
- ✓ **Unidirectional Hydrant Flushing** = Reduce Residence Time, Increase Turnover
- ✓ **Increased Monitoring** = Helps ensure safety of consumers and refine operational changes

# Case Resolution

- Changes to operations were extremely effective and significantly reduced nitrate/nitrite concentrations in the distribution system:
  - **Nitrate:** 0.24 – 1.6 mg/L (MCL = 10 mg/L)
  - **Nitrite:** ND – 0.39 mg/L (MCL = 1.0 mg/L)

- DNR rescinds "Do Not Drink" Advisory
  - 10 days after being issued



State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
1027 W. Saint Paul Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53233

Tony Evers, Governor
Karen Hyun, Ph.D., Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

September 5, 2025

David Lothspeich, Village Administrator
250 Williams Street
PO Box 580
Williams Bay WI 53191

Subject: **Rescind** Do Not Drink Advisory for Williams Bay Waterworks (26500606)

Dear David Lothspeich:

Investigative samples collected on September 3, 2025 and September 4, 2025 from the distribution system of Williams Bay Waterworks were tested and reported to be free of, or below, any federal and state maximum contaminant levels for nitrite. As a result, this letter serves as confirmation that the **Do Not Drink Advisory** formally issued on August 27, 2025 can be **RESCINDED**.

Water supplied by your system can be used for human consumption. Human consumption means drinking, cooking, food preparation and making ice, dishwashing, and all personal hygiene needs (e.g., showering, hand washing, bathing, and oral hygiene).

Contact Jesse Jensen at (414) 319-9909 or Jesse.Jensen@wisconsin.gov if you have questions related to this rescind notice.

Sincerely,

Jesse Jensen
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Drinking and Groundwater Program

cc: Adam Jaramillo, Village of William Bay
Wayne Edwards, Village of Williams Bay
Doug Snyder, Baxter & Woodman
Justin Timm, Williams Bay Police
Andrew Jacque, Water Quality Investigations
Erica Bergstrom, Walworth County Dept. of Health and Human Services
Mark Werner, Wisconsin DHS
Sarah Yang, Wisconsin DHS
Jordan Murray, Wisconsin DHS
Steve Elmore, Wisconsin DNR
Kyle Burton, Wisconsin DNR
Adam DeWeese, Wisconsin DNR
Theera Ratarasarn, Wisconsin DNR
Dave Barkhahn, Wisconsin DNR

dnr.wi.gov
wisconsin.gov

# Case Resolution

- DNR continued to work collaboratively with Williams Bay on maintaining their system over the next few months

- Williams Bay Waterworks completed their new treatment plant upgrades in January 2026
  - Designed to eliminate the nitrification process in its distribution system

# III. How can other municipal water systems avoid this from happening?

# Recommendations to reduce risk of Nitrification in Municipal Distribution Systems

1. **Source Water Testing:**
   - Taking raw water samples for nitrate, nitrite, and ammonia at the source water can help you to better understand the amount of nitrogen coming into the system

2. **Chlorination Optimization:**
   - Ammonia with testing above 0.5 mg/L can be used as an indicator by utilities to adjust the chlorine feed accordingly in order to control the nitrification process downstream.

# Recommendations to reduce risk of Nitrification in MC Distribution Systems

3. <u>Unidirectional Hydrant Flushing</u>:
   - Increased water turnover will lower the contact time the ammonia has to react with the biofilms in the distribution system

4. <u>Increased Monitoring/Field Testing</u>:
   - Helps system operators calibrate and manage water system
   - Builds consumer confidence

# Summary/Takeaways

- Under the right conditions, natural biofilms can convert ammonia into nitrate/nitrite through a process called nitrification.

- Compliance sampling doesn’t always tell the whole story
  - Nitrate/Nitrite compliance sampling at the entry point could not detect possible serious public health issue occurring within distribution system

- More work needs to be done…
  - Wisconsin DNR is considering working with systems statewide to better understanding nitrate, nitrite, and ammonia levels in the source water

# THANK YOU'S

WILLIAMS BAY

WQI Water Quality Investigations

WILLIAMS BAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Northern Lake Service Inc. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYTICAL LABORATORY

WALWORTH COUNTY WISCONSIN Health and Human Services

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES

HyVee EMPLOYEE OWNED

BAXTER & WOODMAN Consulting Engineers

KWIK TRIP

# QUESTIONS?

# CONNECT WITH US


## Jesse Jensen

Wisconsin DNR
Drinking & Groundwater Program
(414) 319-9909
Jesse.Jensen@wisconsin.gov


@WIDNR

@WI_DNR

/WIDNRTV

"WILD WISCONSIN:
OFF THE RECORD"

# Break
# Resuming at 10:50 a.m.

# Member Roundtable

All DG Study Group Members

# Member Roundtable

*Chris Groh* | **Wisconsin Rural Water Association**

*Kathleen Dax-Klister* | **Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene**

*Jared Walker Smith* | **Municipal Environmental Group**

*Paul Junio* | **Pace Labs**

*Jeff Kramer* | **Wisconsin Well Water Association**

*Sydney Morgan* | **Wisconsin Section – American Waterworks Association**

Jordan Murray | **Department of Health Services**

*Rick Wietersen* | **Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards**

*Sara Walling* | **Clean Wisconsin**

*Brad Stuczynski* | **American Council of Engineering Companies - Water Committee**

*Adam Jordahl* | **Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce**

*Angela James* | **Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

# Internal Updates

WI DNR

# Lead/Copper Updates to ch. NR 809

- May 1, 2026 publication date
- EPA 2021 LCRR and 2024 LCRI requirements incorporation into state rule
- Compliance date of Nov. 1, 2027
- Impacts to the following:
  - Lead and Copper Compliance Monitoring
  - Corrosion Control Treatment
  - Compliance Flexibility Alternatives
  - Service Line Inventory & Methods
  - Service Line Replacements
  - Public Education
  - Lead Monitoring in Schools and Child Care Facilities

# Drinking Water and Groundwater Administrative Rules Update

## NR 140 – Groundwater Standards

- Approved scope statement to incorporate new DHS recommendations for 6 PFAS groundwater standards
- Economic Impact Analysis out for public comment until May 7, 2026
- Another action: DNR sent a letter to DHS to have them review 21 pesticides for potential groundwater standards

NR 140 Groundwater Quality Standards Update | | Wisconsin DNR

# Drinking Water and Groundwater Administrative Rules Update

## NR 809: PFAS Drinking Water Standards & Technical Edits

- Finalizing the rule change
- Rule will be published ~July 2026
- More information:
  - NR 809 Technical Edits
  - Federal PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels
- Current federal compliance deadline for initial monitoring is April 2027 and Maximum Contaminant Level compliance is April 2029
- Watching for potential changes at the federal level related to PFAS drinking water standards

# NR 809 Revision – PFAS Rule Timelines

**2024–2027**

Initial monitoring must be complete, **April 26, 2027**

**2027–2029**

Public Notification:

- Results of initial monitoring need to be included in Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).
- Regular monitoring for compliance must begin, and results of compliance monitoring need to be included in the CCR.
- Public notification for monitoring and testing violations.

**2029**

Compliance deadlines, April, 2029:

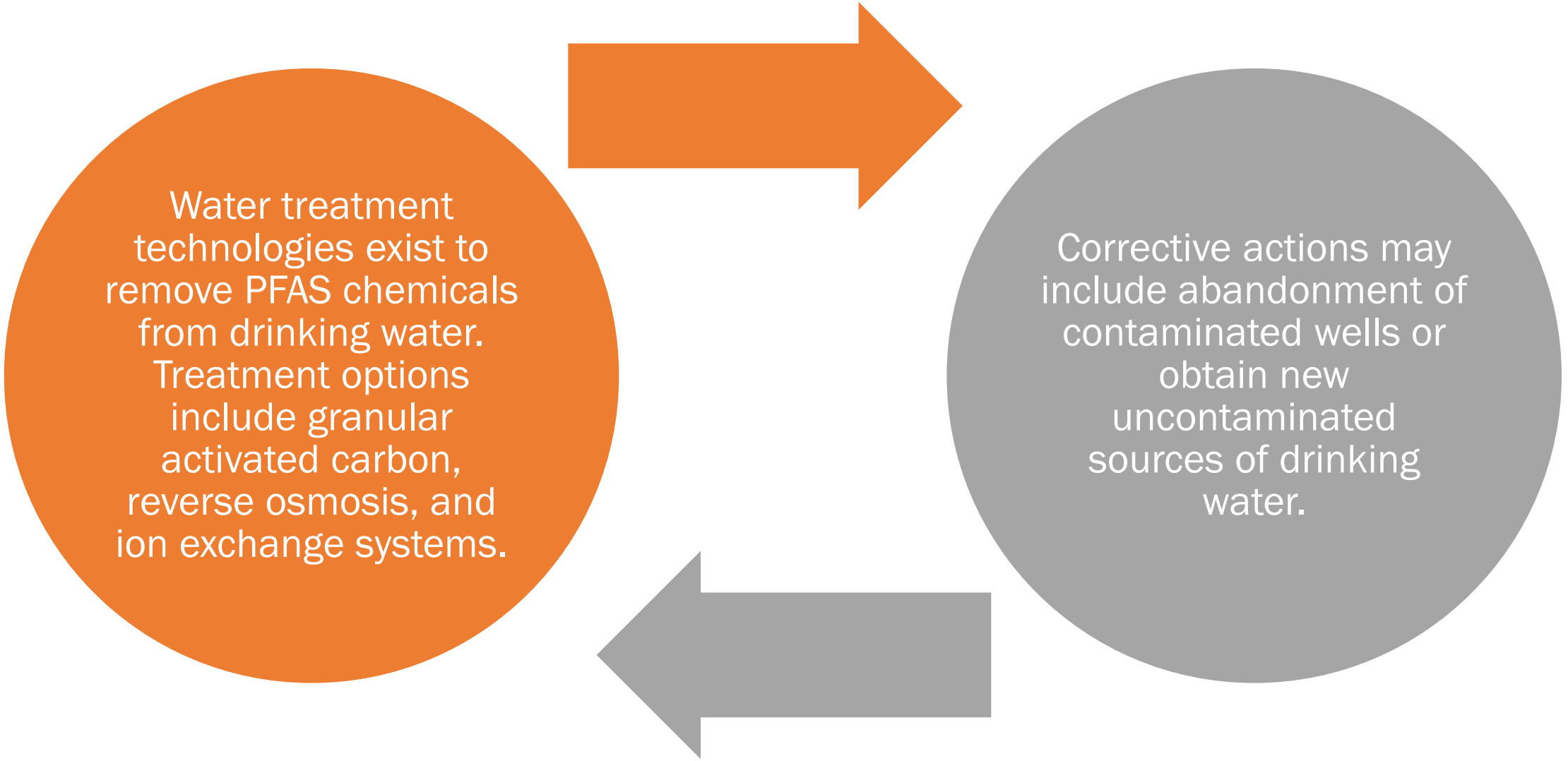
- Comply with all MCLs.

# NR 809 Revision – Initial PFAS Monitoring

| PFAS Initial Monitoring Requirements | |
|---|---|
| Type of system* | Minimum monitoring frequency |
| All Surface Water systems and Groundwater systems >10,000 persons | Four (4) consecutive quarters of samples at each entry point within a 12-month period. Samples must be taken two to four months apart. |
| Groundwater systems <10,000 persons | Two (2) consecutive samples at each entry point within a 12-month period. Samples must be taken five to seven months apart. |

**MC, OC and NN Systems Only*
*TN systems excluded from PFAS rule.*

# PFAS - Corrective Action Options



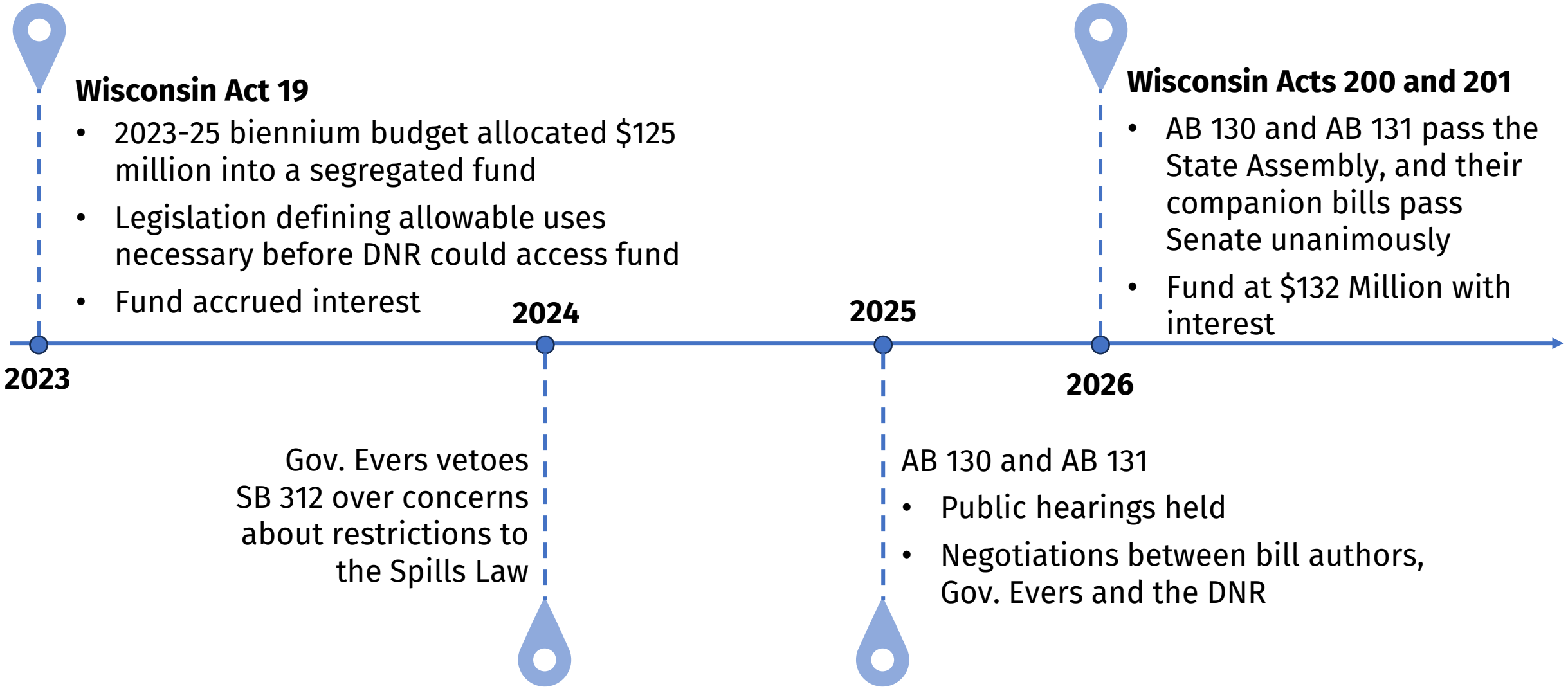
# PFAS – Federal Funding

| EC-SDC OTM/NN PFAS Funding | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PFAS Grants Awarded | Remaining PFAS Grant Funding | PFAS Grants Awarded to Nonprofit NNs | PFAS Grants Awarded to OTMs |
| $2,624,240.25 | $3,375,759.75 | $1,071,774.25 | $1,552,466.00 |

| EC-SDC Municipal PFAS Funding | |
|---|---|
| | Grants Awarded |
| Total | $9,339,188.00 |
| Remaining Funding | $7,697,579.00 |

| EC-SDC OTM/NN PFAS Funding Applications Under Review | |
|---|---|
| | Awaiting Award |
| Total | $698,405.00 |

# PFAS Legislation Timeline



# What's In These Laws

- Exemptions to the Spills Law
- Codification of Interim Biosolids Strategy
- Airport and Industrial Possessor Grant Program
- Municipal and Private Well Grant Programs
- Other Provisions
- Staffing

# Implementation Input and Updates

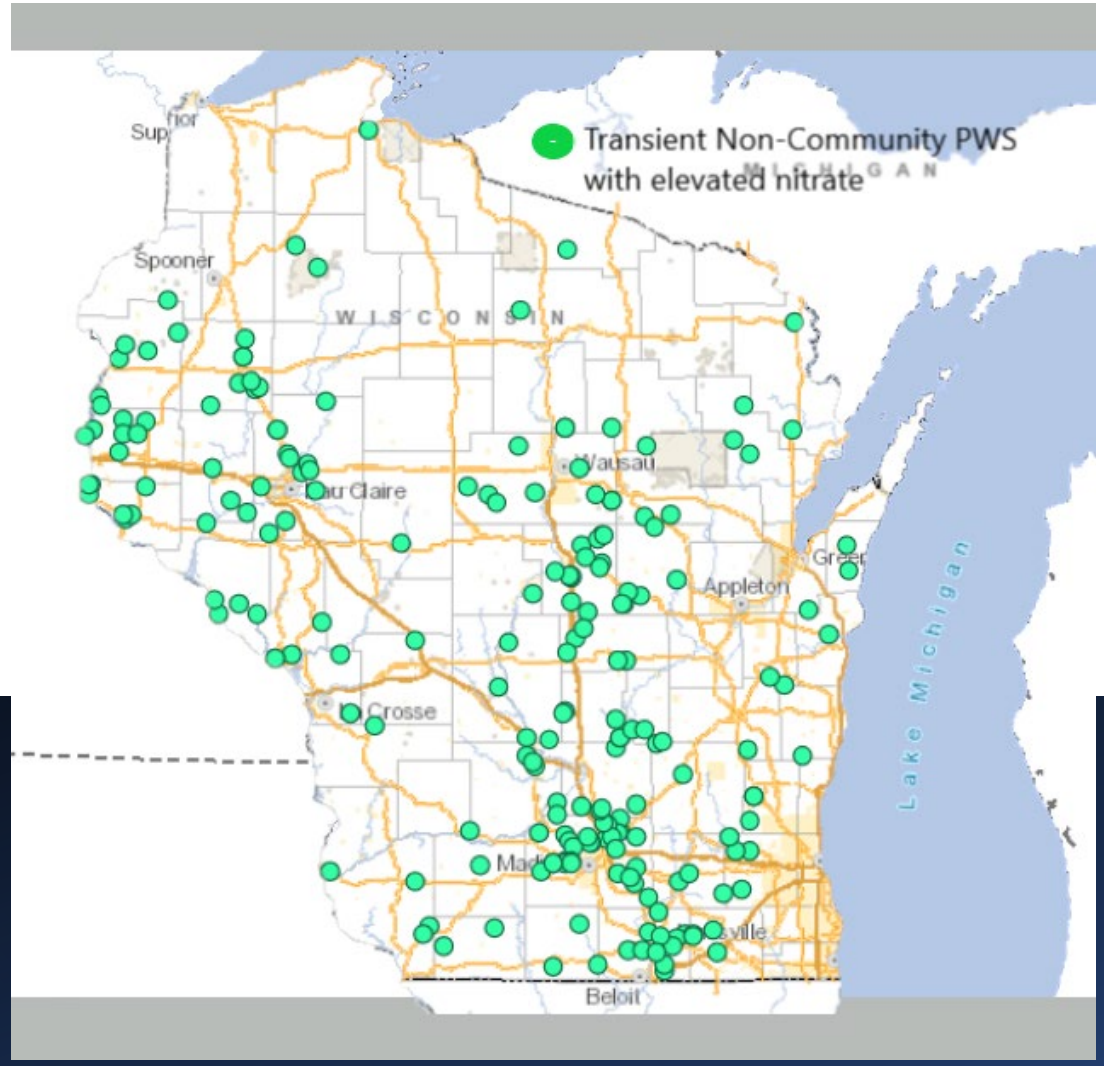
- Submit questions and feedback
  - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDL9DXY

- DNR.WI.GOV/Topic/PFAS
  - Updates on implementation
  - Sign up for GovDelivery updates

Submit questions and feedback

# Returning TN systems to compliance with Nitrate MCLs

## “Nitrate Sunsetting”



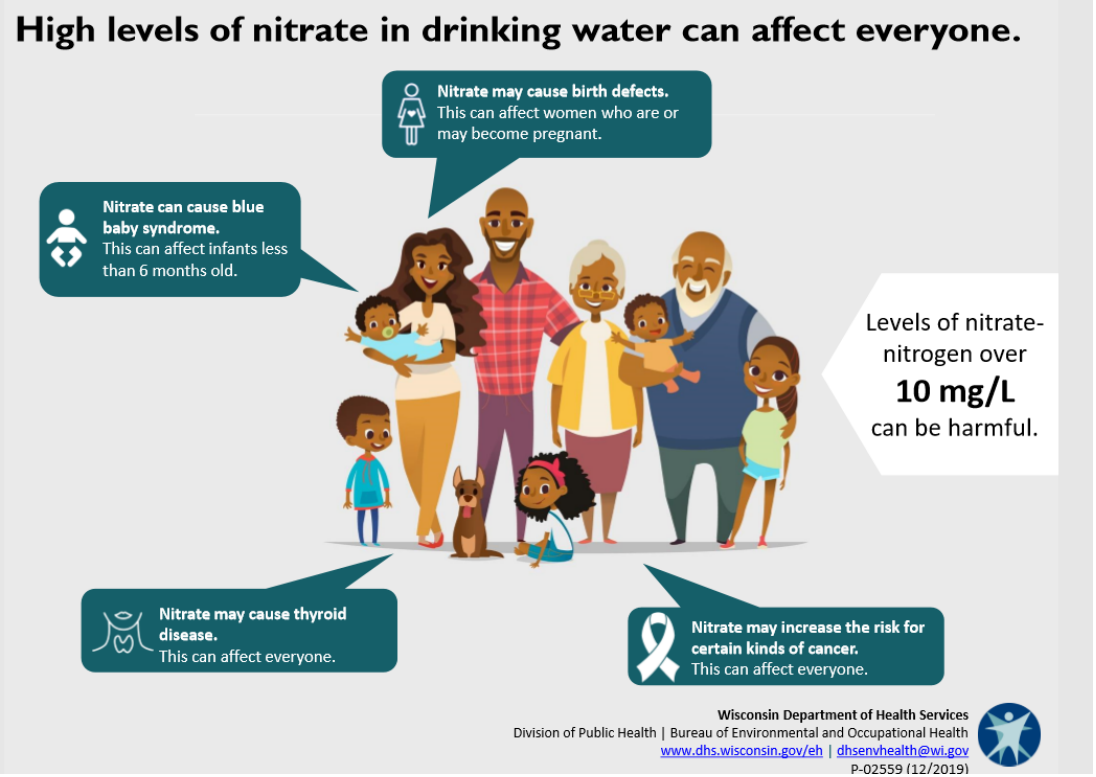

Project update.

May DG Study Group 2026

Slides prepared by Beth Finzer

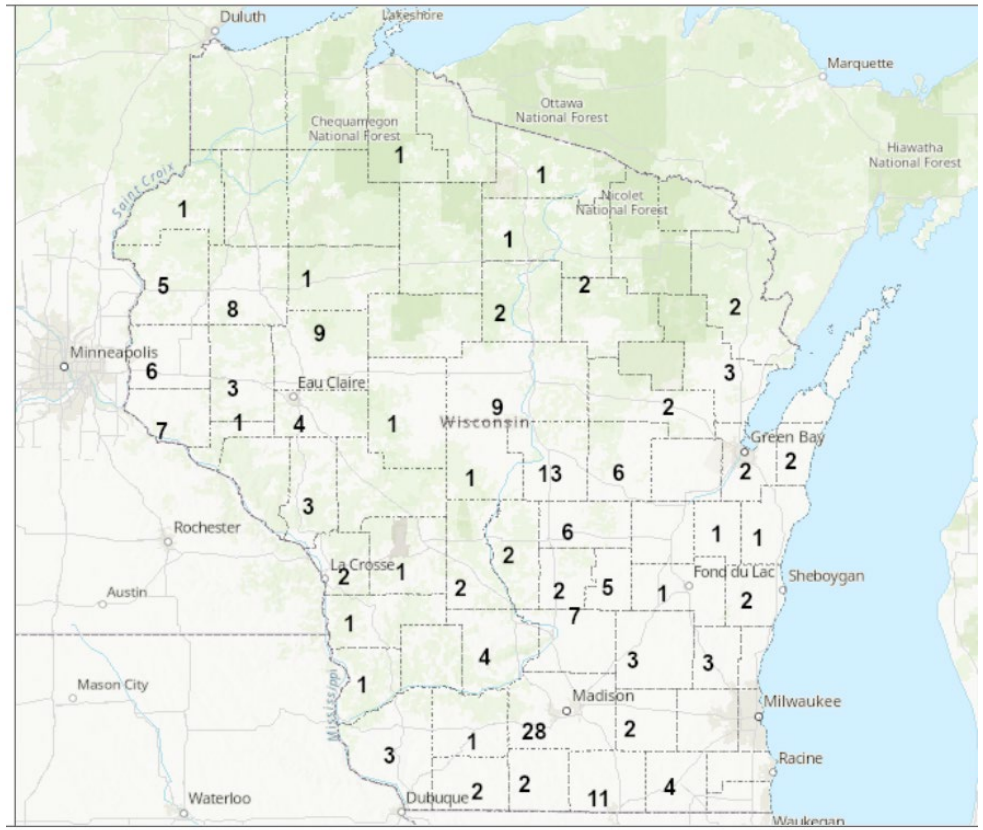
# Sunsetting Continuing Operation

- In 2019-2020 a plan was developed to require systems to return to compliance with the nitrate MCL over a 3 to 5 year timeline.
- Scheduled to be implemented in 2020
- Put on hold due to COVID
- Started in April 1, 2023



# Continuous Operation with Nitrate MCL at TN systems

Total statewide was 210 in 2023

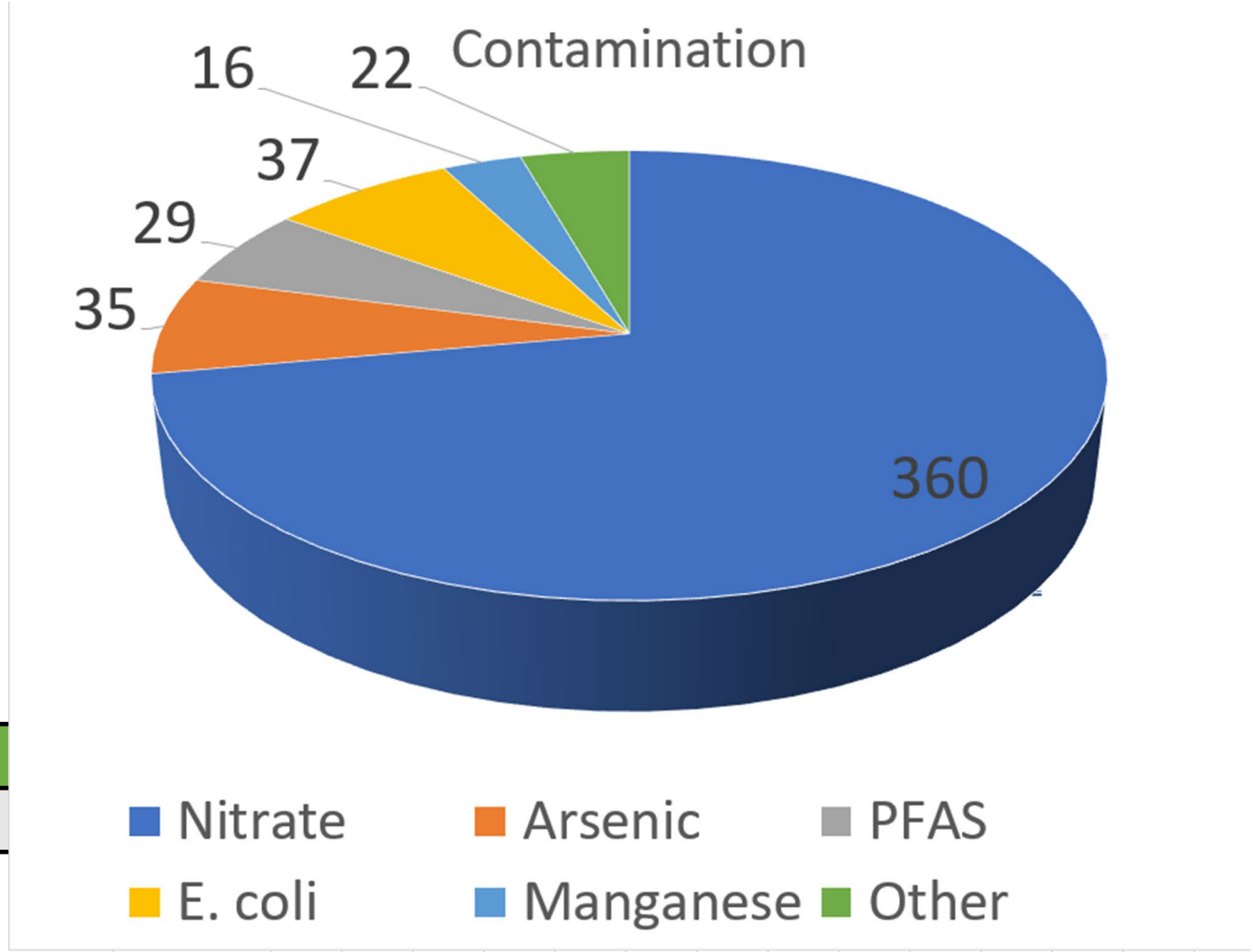



| Number of TNs with High Nitrate | |
|---|---|
| Dane | 28 |
| Portage | 13 |
| Rock | 11 |
| Chippewa, Marathon | 9 |
| Barron | 8 |
| Columbia, Pierce | 7 |
| St. Croix, Waupaca, Waushara | 6 |
| Green Lake, Polk | 5 |
| Buffalo, Eau Claire, Sauk, Walworth, Waukesha | 4 |
| Dodge, Dunn, Grant, Oconto, Trempealeau, Washington | 3 |
| Adams, Brown, Green, Jefferson, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Marquette, Sawyer, Shawano, Sheboygan | 2 |
| Ashland, Burnett, Calumet, Clark, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Iowa, Manitowoc, Monroe, Oneida, Pepin, Rusk, Vernon, Vilas, Wood | 1 |

# ARPA was a big help

92 Non-Community PWS awarded grants

| Year | 2024 | 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| TNs with nitrate MCL | 204 | 179 |



# Returning TNs to compliance with nitrate MCL

- ***LEGACY (pre 2023) Sunsetting Systems***

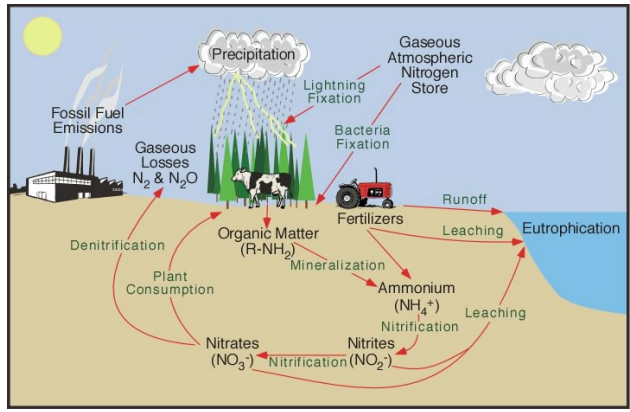
≈ 80 with a violation prior to April 1, 2023

  - These have been ranked and prioritized for enforcement
  - Prioritization ranking based on population served, nitrate concentration and length system has been in violation
  - An annual goal for enforcement determined each year
  - Starting point of 3 systems per quarter starting July 2026

# Ammonia Source Water Sampling

## Statewide Nitrification Investigation Initiative

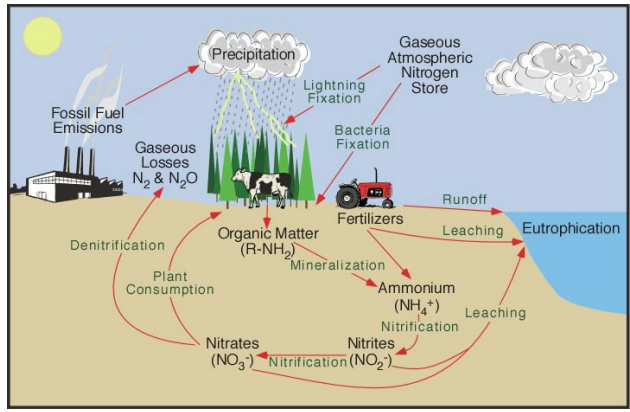
- Ammonia in source water can lead to nitrification which is a process that can degrade water quality and may affect compliance with several SDWA requirements including:
  - Lead to elevated nitrite concentrations which is a serious public health concern
  - Interfere with disinfection process
  - Affect corrosion control



# Ammonia Source Water Sampling

## Statewide Nitrification Investigation Initiative

- 2026 Ammonia Source Water Sampling at municipal drinking water systems
- The purpose of this monitoring project is to:
  - Better understand the occurrence of ammonia in source waters
  - Identify systems that may be at higher risk of nitrification
  - Provide information on potential management strategies
  - <u>Proactively work with systems to help them prevent issues</u>



# Summer Meeting

- Do members want a summer recess? If not, our next meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026.

- Future agenda topics?

# CONNECT WITH US

## Next Meeting | Aug. 6, 2026

The meeting recording will be posted on the Drinking Water and Groundwater Study Group webpage.

@WIDNR

@WI_DNR

/WIDNRTV

"WILD WISCONSIN: OFF THE RECORD"