

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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March 17, 2016

Ms. Tinka Hyde, Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region V
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Subject: Submittal of Wisconsin's Water Resources Monitoring Strategy Update 2015-2020

Dear Ms. ^{Tinka}Hyde,

The Department of Natural Resources respectfully transmits to you Wisconsin's Water Resources Monitoring Strategy Update for 2015-2020. We request that you acknowledge receipt of this strategy update and note that a request for certification of the strategy as an amendment to the state's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan will be submitted under separate cover.

This 2015-2020 strategy update was developed with guidance and advice from your staff, state agency experts, and private and nonprofit sector partners. The details were compiled through a multi-year process in which experienced staff was engaged to identify monitoring needs and study designs best suited for Wisconsin's unique resources. This strategy also received broad agency input and review internally and by experts and staff at USEPA. We consider this document a blueprint for data gathering and analysis, not only for state agency work and resources, but for Wisconsin collaborators and grant recipients as project proposals are created and funds are requested. Significantly, the backbone of this strategy fundamentally supports water quality standards, assessment, and implementation work in our Water Evaluation, Wastewater, Lakes & Wetlands, and Runoff Management programs and will significantly guide the acquisition of much needed resource information and condition data into the next decade.

The strategy has been successfully piloted in work planning efforts for 2015-17. We anticipate the fundamental elements and priorities identified in this strategy will continue to guide management and staff actions as projects are designed, tools are developed, and programs are integrated well into the next decade.

We would like to provide special mention of the highly supportive role that USEPA Region V staff provided during the creation of this structured, science-based, and highly integrated monitoring strategy which relies on state-of-the-art information system tools and contemporary study design and data collection techniques. We believe this monitoring strategy update improves the state's framework for future water quality program implementation in Wisconsin and I am pleased to forward this strategy document to you.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Sylvester
Director, Water Quality Bureau

c. Eric Ebersberger
Tim Asplund