

1971 Assembly Bill 873

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CHAPTER 273, Laws of 1971

AN ACT to amend 30.19 (4) and 31.06 (3); and to create 23.11 (5) of the statutes, relating to including protection of environmental quality as a specific consideration in certain department of natural resources proceedings.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 23.11 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

23.11 (5) The department may require an applicant for a permit or statutory approval which the department, by order, may grant, to submit an environmental impact report if the area affected exceeds 40 acres or the estimated cost of the project exceeds \$25,000.

SECTION 2. 30.19 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

30.19 (4) If the department finds that the project will not injure public rights or interest, including fish and game habitat, that the project will not cause environmental pollution as defined in s. 144.30 (9), that the project conforms to the requirement of laws for the platting of land and for sanitation and that no material injury to the rights of any riparian owners on any body of water affected will result, the department shall issue a permit authorizing the enlargement of the waterways affected.

SECTION 3. 31.06 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

31.06 (3) At such hearing or any adjournment thereof the department shall consider the application, and shall take evidence offered by the applicant and other persons in support thereof or in opposition thereto, may require the amendment of the application, and if it appears that the construction, operation or maintenance of the proposed dam is in the public interest, considering ~~esthetic, ecological, aesthetic~~, economic and recreational values, the department shall so find and grant a permit to the applicant, provided the department also finds that the applicant has complied with s. 31.14 (2) or (3) and, where applicable, with s. 31.05 (3), based on the department's own estimate of the area of the flowage. The enjoyment of natural scenic beauty ~~is~~ and environmental quality ~~are~~ declared to be a public ~~right~~ rights to be considered along with other public rights and the economic need of electric power for the full development of agricultural and industrial activity and other useful purposes in the area to be served. In considering public rights to the

recreational use and natural scenic beauty of the river, the department shall investigate the potentialities of the lake and lake shore created by the flowage and shall weigh the recreational use and scenic beauty thereof against the known recreational use and scenic beauty of the river in its natural state, and the department shall further weigh the known recreational use and scenic beauty of the particular section of river involved against the known recreational use and scenic beauty of other sections of the same river and other rivers in the area remaining in their natural state (without regard to plans of other dams subsequently filed or to be filed); if it appears that the river in its natural state offers greater recreational facilities and scenic value for a larger number of people than can be obtained from the use of the lake and lake shore and that the remaining sections of the river and other rivers in the area in their natural state provide an insufficient amount of recreational facilities and scenic beauty, and if it further appears that the economic need of electric power is less than the value of the recreational and scenic beauty advantages of such river in its natural state, the department shall so find and the permit be denied. If the department finds that approval of the permit will cause environmental pollution, as defined in s. 144.30 (9), the permit shall be denied.
