



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2011 Assembly Bill 23

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

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Under *current law*, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is authorized to “establish, administer and maintain a safe drinking water program no less stringent than the requirements of the [federal] safe drinking water act...” [s. 281.17 (8), Stats.] DNR rules require that municipal water systems provide continuous disinfection of drinking water drawn from groundwater or surface water sources. [s. NR 810.09, Wis. Adm. Code.] The requirement that drinking water drawn from surface water be disinfected is based on federal requirements, while there is no federal requirement for the disinfection of drinking water from groundwater sources.

2011 Assembly Bill 23 specifies that the DNR may not require a municipal water system to provide continuous disinfection of the water, unless continuous disinfection is required under federal law.

Assembly Amendment 1 does the following:

- Creates a second condition under which the DNR may require a municipal water system to provide continuous disinfection, that being if water quality data, well construction, or water system construction indicates a potential health hazard.
- Revises the scoring system for safe drinking water loan program projects. Under the safe drinking water loan program, projects are scored based on an extensive list of criteria established in DNR rules. Under one criterion, points are given to projects to install disinfection systems in conformance with the rule provisions requiring disinfection by all municipal water systems. Because the bill would override the existing rule requiring disinfection of groundwater, it would also eliminate points awarded safe drinking water loan program projects on this basis. To avoid this result, the amendment specifies that projects to install disinfection systems to treat drinking water drawn from groundwater shall be scored under the loan program in the same manner as projects to install disinfection systems to treat drinking water drawn from surface water.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Severson on March 24, 2011. On April 27, 2011, the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0, and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 6.

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