


**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act enacted by Chapter 274, Laws of 1971 as amended by Chapter 264, Laws of 1973, requires all agencies of the state to consider the environmental consequences of all their actions and to assess and disclose the environmental impacts of "major actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment"; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act requires all state agencies to substantially follow the guidelines issued by the United States Council on Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, no state procedures reflecting the most recent revisions of the United States Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act have been developed, and WEPA is not consistently implemented by all state agencies; and

WHEREAS, all state agencies have a shared responsibility to cooperate in meeting environmental requirements in the most efficient way and to achieve maximum use of limited state resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANTHONY S. EARL, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of this state, do hereby order that:

1. An interagency WEPA coordinating committee shall be formed consisting of a representative of each state agency listed in Chapter 15 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
2. The heads of each state agency shall appoint a knowledgeable person to act as that agency's WEPA coordinator and who shall serve as the agency's representative to the interagency WEPA coordinating committee.
3. The interagency WEPA Coordinating Committee shall be chaired by the Department of Natural Resources.
4. The interagency WEPA Coordinating Committee shall, in the absence of existing interagency committees, boards or agreements, serve as the principal body to evaluate and resolve environmental issues of mutual concern to all state agencies.

RECEIVED

SEP 15 1983

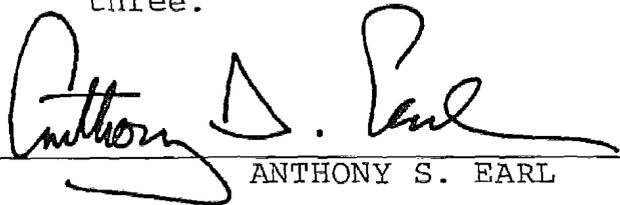
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE
BUREAU

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

5. The interagency WEPA Coordinating Committee shall determine whether guidelines for use by all state agencies in implementation of WEPA are appropriate and, if so, shall develop guidelines which substantially follow United States Council on Environmental Quality Regulations.
6. The committee shall prepare and distribute informational material to insure public understanding of WEPA and improve public participation in agency decision making.
7. The committee shall serve as a coordinating body to see that state agencies with expertise and/or interest in major developments in Wisconsin effectively participate in the WEPA compliance and decision making of the lead state agency.
8. The committee shall develop and distribute recommendations for any legislation needed to clarify WEPA related issues to the Governor and appropriate standing committees of the Legislature.

At the end of each calendar year, a report to the Governor shall be prepared by the committee on implementation of this order.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 12th day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred eighty-three.


ANTHONY S. EARL

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

