

Notice of Hearing

The Department of Natural Resources announces that it will hold a public hearing on a permanent rule to revise ch. NR 106, 200, 205, 207, 210, 220, 221, 225, 228, 231, 236, 239, 240, 245, 247, 250, 258, 261, 268, 269, 275, 276, 277, 280, 281, 284, 286, 290, 294, 295, and 296, Wis. Adm. Codes, relating to 10 of the EPA's 75 concerns regarding the WPDES program, at the time and place shown below.

Hearing Information

Date: February 7, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Room G09, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53703

Date: February 6, 2017
Time: 2:00 PM
Location: Lake Michigan Room, 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313

An informational webinar will also be held on February 8, 2017 at 2 PM. To receive the access to the webinar, please send an email to Jason.Knutson@wisconsin.gov with the subject line "WT-12-12 Webinar Access Request" by February 5, 2017. Comments will not be taken via the webinar but may be submitted in writing or at one of the in-person hearings in Madison or Green Bay.

Accessibility

1. Hearing impaired persons may request an interpreter for this hearing. Please make reservations for a hearing interpreter at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing, by writing to e-mail Jason.Knutson@wisconsin.gov.
2. Alternatively, you may contact the Department of Natural Resources TDD at (608) 267-6897. The hearing facility is accessible to disabled users.
3. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of information material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call with specific information on your request at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing.
4. Handicap access is available at the hearing location.

Appearances at the Hearing and Submittal of Written Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before March 1, 2017. Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, fax, E-mail, or through the internet and will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing. Questions on the proposed rules should be submitted to:

Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Jason Knutson
P.O. Box 7921
101 S. Webster Street,
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Email comments may be made at DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov

Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:

The rule may have minor economic impacts on small businesses in isolated cases, but no broad, significant impacts are expected. Economic impacts are not expected because the department is already required under state statutes to include conditions in permits that are consistent with federal regulations and therefore most of the revisions are consistent with existing department practices. The impacts to small businesses, if any, are expected to be the same as impacts to other businesses. The proposed rules did not provide less stringent requirements for small businesses because federal regulations do not allow exceptions for small businesses. The rule will primarily impact WPDES permittees, including publicly owned treatment plants (municipalities) and industrial wastewater dischargers such as power plants, pulp and paper mills, cheesemakers, food processors, and others. In some isolated cases, it is possible the rule changes may inhibit the ability of permittees to receive relaxed limits, but the department already has antidegradation procedures in place which also provides restrictions on relaxed limitations. It also may allow industrial dischargers to receive alternative (more or less stringent) technology based limits due to factors that make the individual discharger fundamentally different from the industrial category to which it belongs by definition. All dischargers whose permits include new limitations will be subject to updated compliance schedule regulations, as well. The department does not anticipate an increase in monitoring, reporting or compliance costs. In most cases, changes in this rule package simply codify existing practices. See the EIA for further discussion of impacts and benefits.

Agency Small Business Regulatory Coordinator:

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