

**State of Wisconsin**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
101 S. Webster Street  
Box 7921  
Madison WI 53707-7921

**Tony Evers, Governor**  
**Preston D. Cole, Secretary**  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



September 12, 2022

Michael J. Queensland, Senate Chief Clerk  
Wisconsin State Capitol, B20 (SE)  
Madison, WI 53707  
Michael.Queensland@legis.wisconsin.gov

Edward A. Blazel, Assembly Chief Clerk  
17 W. Main Street, Room 401  
Madison, WI 53703  
Ted.Blazel@legis.wisconsin.gov

Dear Messrs. Queensland and Blazel:

The Department of Natural Resources is pleased to provide you with a copy of our annual Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) report. In fulfillment of Section 1.11 (2) (j) of the state statutes, this document provides information on the WEPA-compliance activities completed by the Department in fiscal year 2022.

Questions about this report can be directed to me at [AdamC.Mednick@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:AdamC.Mednick@Wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam C. Mednick'.

Adam C. Mednick, PhD, AICP  
Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act Coordinator

ACM/acm  
enclosures

cc: Andrew Janssen – AD/8  
Sean Kennedy – AD/8  
Paul Neumann – MB/8  
Greg Pils – EA/7  
Dreux Watermolen – EA/7

**ANNUAL REPORT OF WEPA-COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES  
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FY 2022**

September 12, 2022

**Overview of WEPA and the Department's WEPA-Compliance Procedures**

Signed into law in 1972, the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) requires state agencies to analyze, consider, and disclose the anticipated environmental and socioeconomic effects of certain agency actions, along with reasonable alternatives to those actions. The Department's WEPA-compliance procedures are established in Chapter NR 150 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Some Department actions, like the permitting of metallic mines and licensing of certain new hazardous waste facilities, require the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS), following the procedures set forth in sec. NR 150.30, Wis. Adm. Code. The Department may also determine that an EIS is required for a proposed project, under s. NR 150.20(4)(b).

In most cases, Department compliance with WEPA is achieved through the Department's programmatic procedures for those actions listed as "integrated analysis actions" under s. NR 150.20(2)(a). As defined under s. NR 150.03(12m):

*"Integrated analysis action" means a department action for which department programmatic procedures provide for public disclosure and include an environmental analysis that provides sufficient information to establish that an environmental impact statement is not required.*

An additional class of Department actions, called "prior compliance actions," are WEPA-compliant because one or more environmental analysis documents already exist for prior actions that were similar in kind, scale, and environmental setting (s. NR 150.20(3)(a), Wis. Adm. Code).

The Department also cooperates with other state and federal agencies in the preparation of environmental analysis documents, under s. NR 150.40(2). This includes the joint preparation of EISs and "environmental assessments" (EAs).

Lastly, the Department conducts "strategic analyses" of broader natural resource issues and policies, following the procedures set forth in s. NR 150.10. The purpose of a strategic analysis is to inform decision-makers and the public about alternative courses of action and the anticipated environmental and socioeconomic effects of those alternatives.

## **Department WEPA-Compliance Activities Completed in FY 2022**

The Department made WEPA-compliance determinations for all actions classified as integrated analysis actions and prior compliance actions, respectively, under s. NR 150.20(2)(a) and s. NR 150.20(3)(a), Wis. Adm. Code.

The Department cooperated with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, under s. NR 150.40(2), Wis. Adm. Code, on the completion of eight environmental assessments (EAs) for the following projects:

- American Transmission Company – Barneveld to Military Ridge
- American Transmission Company – Howards Grove to Erdman Substation
- Great Lakes Utilities – RICE Generation
- Invenergy – Koshkonong Solar Energy Project
- Northern States Power Company – Wisconsin (Xcel Energy) – Ashland to Ironwood Transmission Line Relocation Project
- Village of Sommers – Water Diversion
- WEPCO/WPS – Weston RICE Generation Unit
- Wisconsin Power & Light – Six Solar (Albany, Beaver Dam, Cassville, Paddock, Springfield, Wautoma) Project

The Department released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS), under s. NR 150.30, Wis. Adm. Code, on the following project:

- Enbridge, Inc. – Proposed Enbridge Line 5 Relocation Project