



WISCONSIN WASTEWATER
OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION

WWOA

Virtual Operator Training Series

- 💧 April 30th Activated Sludge 9am – Noon
- 💧 May 6th Anaerobic Digestion 9am – Noon
- 💧 May 14th Collection System Long-Range Planning 9am – Noon
- 💧 May 21st WI DNR Updates 11am-1pm
- 💧 May 26th Water Quality Trading 9am – Noon
- 💧 June 4th Submersible Pump O&M 9am – Noon
- 💧 June 10th Biosolids Handling Case Studies 9am – Noon
- 💧 June 18th Process Control 9am - Noon

Webinar Meeting Details

Welcome from the WWOA, thank you for continuing your education with us during these historically unique times.

- Find the chat function, you will need that to answer simple questions designed to confirm that you are still participating.
 - This is necessary to get credits.
- Breaks will be 5 minutes, we will start promptly following each break.
- Questions can be asked through the Q&A feature, we will check in on them periodically.
- A short survey will be included at the conclusion.
 - We need feedback to improve this approach to continued educational opportunities.

The content of this presentation is intended for the sole purpose of educating WWOA members and is not to be downloaded, copied, used, shared, or otherwise transmitted without the prior consent of WWOA and the authors.



WISCONSIN WASTEWATER
OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin DNR Updates Virtual Operator Training ~ May 21, 2020

PRESENTED BY:



CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS:



Introductions

Amy Garbe

Amy Garbe is a Wastewater Engineer with the Department of Natural Resources. Previously she handled compliance within the Southern part of the state along with AM/WQT projects and Phosphorus Variances statewide. Recently, she transitioned to the Statewide Wastewater Operations Engineer and Compliance Coordinator position in which she works statewide assisting with O&M Troubleshooting, Operator Certification, SSOs and CMARs.



Wisconsin DNR Updates



WISCONSIN WASTEWATER
OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION



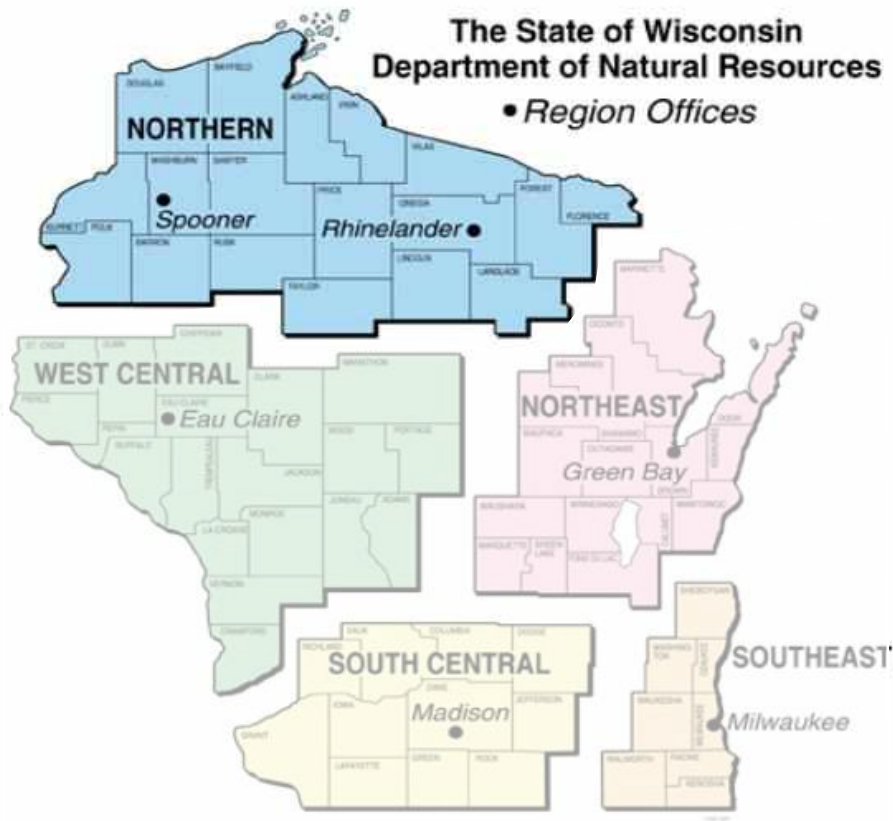
Hosted by WWOA
Presented by Amy Garbe, WDNR
05/21/2020



Staffing Updates

Staffing Updates

NORTHERN



Jordan Englebert –
Compliance Engineer

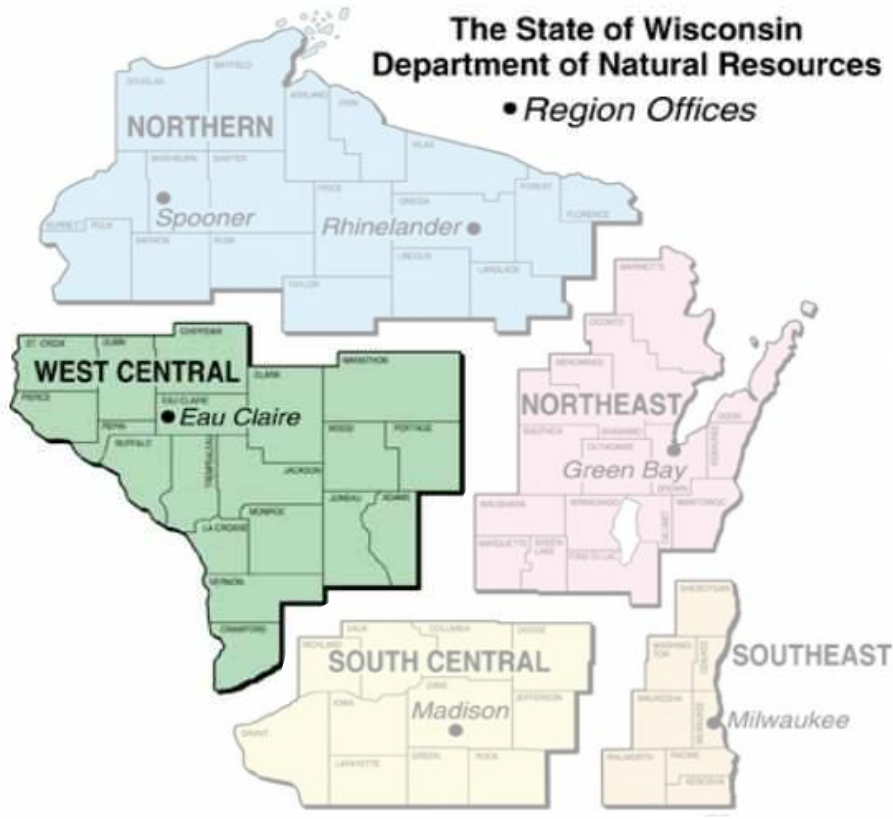
Lonn Franson – Compliance
Engineer (retiring)

Staffing Updates

WEST CENTRAL

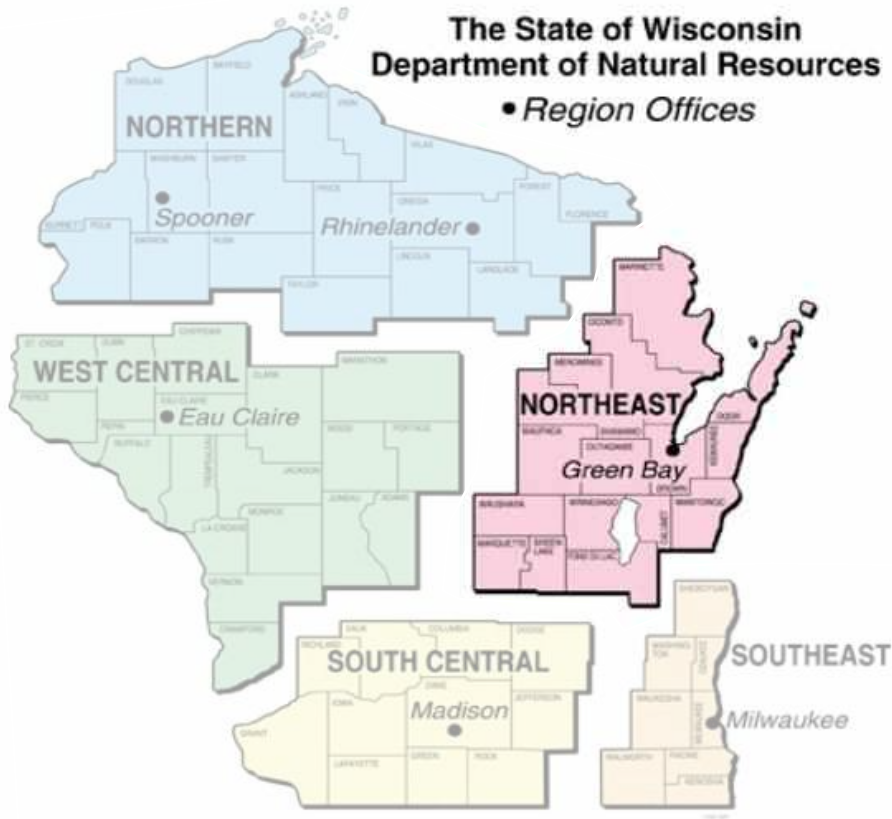
Geisa Thielen– Field
Supervisor

VACANT – Compliance
Engineer



Staffing Updates

NORTHEAST

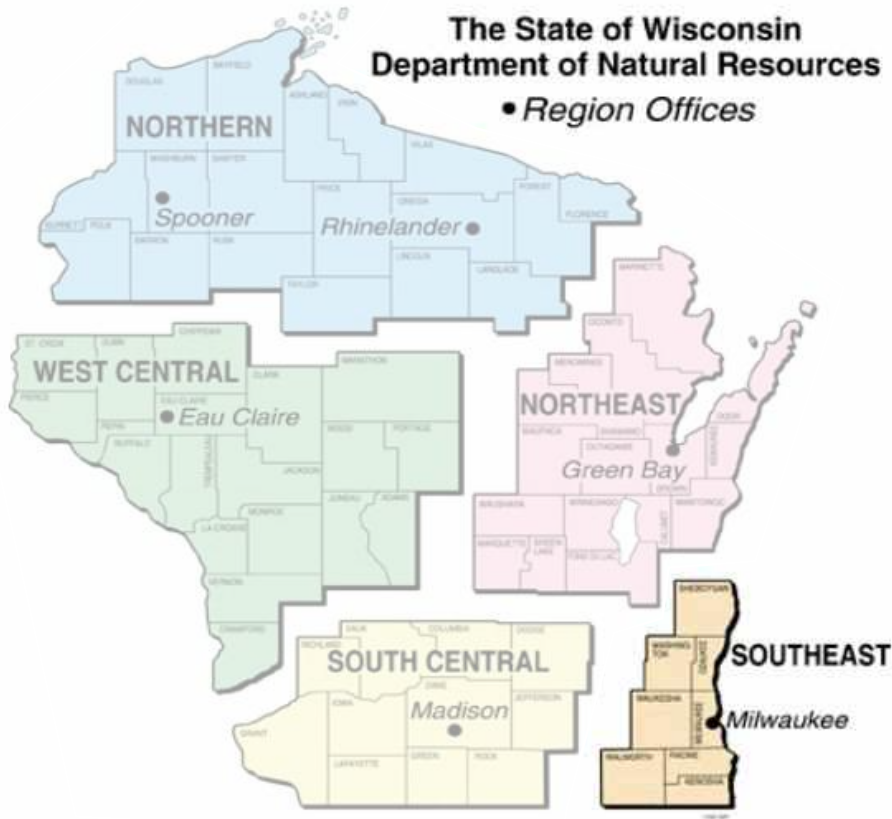


Heidi Schmitt-Marquez – Field Supervisor

Laura Gerold – Compliance Engineer

Staffing Updates

SOUTHEAST

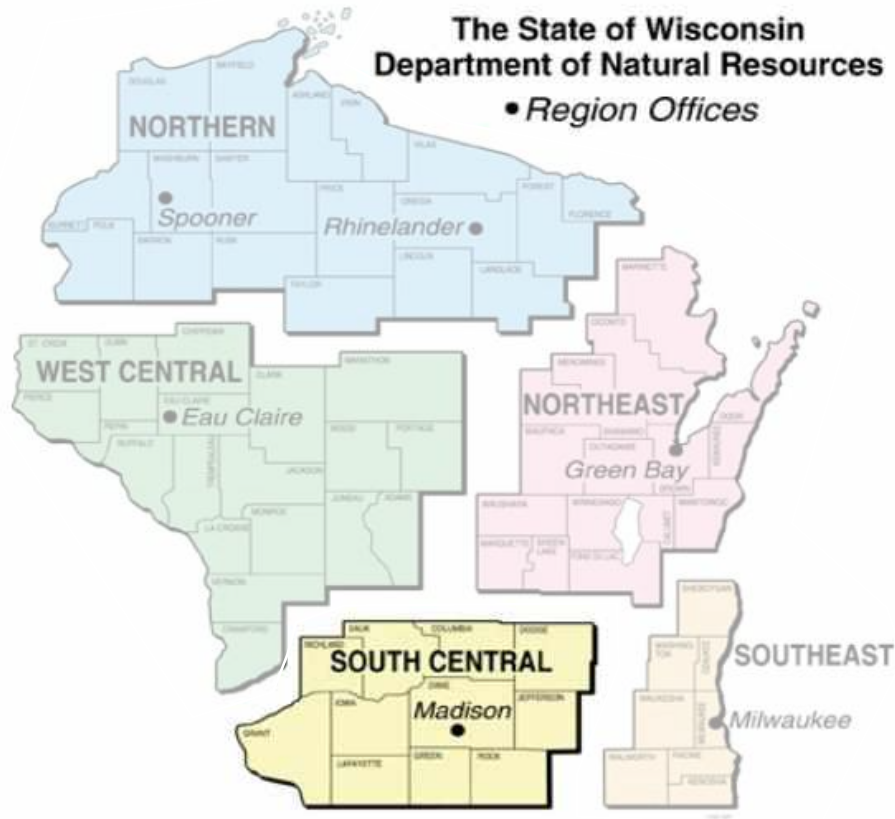


Jacob Wedesky – Compliance Engineer

Steve Warrner – Land Spreading Specialist

Staffing Updates

SOUTH CENTRAL



Tom Bauman – Field Supervisor

Thomas Meronek – Compliance Engineer

Kassie Franke – Land Spreading Specialist

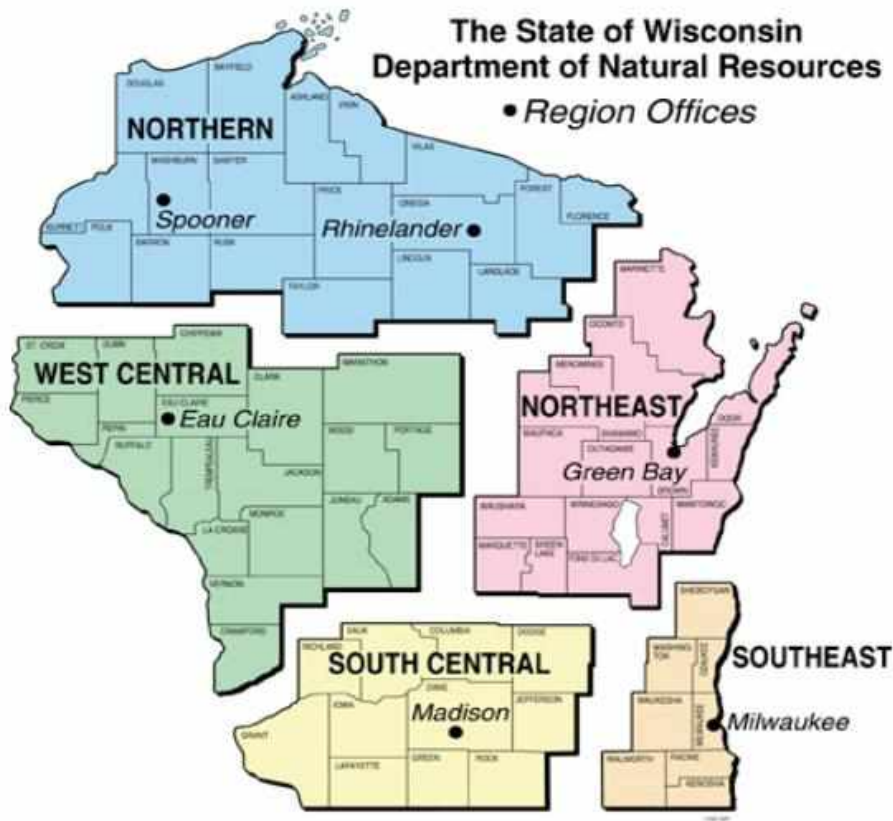
Staffing Updates

CENTRAL OFFICE - MADISON

Ashley Brechlin – Plan Review
Engineer

Chris Bellovary – Plan Review
Engineer (leaving)

Richard Douglas – Land
Spreading Specialist





Permit Compliance

CMAR Season

SSO Forms

Inspections



CMAR Season

- Released April 30th
- Reminder: review generated data first
- Updated instructions:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/cmar/SectionInstructions.html>
- Updated precipitation data:
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/cmar/Precipitation.html>
- New due date (this year only) = August 31, 2020



SSO Forms

- Submitted for Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) & Treatment Facility Overflows (TFO) <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/documents/3400-184.pdf>
 - Required within 5 days of overflow occurrence
 - Sent to compliance staff
- Moving to electronic submittals
 - Development of central email address (DNRSSOForms@wisconsin.gov)
 - Date TBD
- Basement Backup Reporting – SSO Form vs CMAR
- Public Notification
 - always required (s. NR 210.21(5), Wis. Adm. Code)
 - Per Emergency Response Plan in CMOM
 - IF goes to surface water, minimum newspaper notification



Inspections

- What are the DNR goals?
 - Minors: 1x every 5 years
 - Majors: 1x every 2 years
 - Pretreatment Audits (delegated POTWs): 1x every 5 years
- DNR currently has travel restrictions
 - Anticipating a phased in approach
- “Virtual” Inspections until travel is allowed



E. coli Rule



E. coli Rules

- Revised our bacteria WQ criteria from fecal coliform to *E. coli*
- Developed by EPA to protect recreation
- Took effect May 1

Contains:

- Surface water criteria (NR 102)
- Permit limits for sewage treatment operations during recreation season (NR 210)
- Update to analytical methods table (NR 219)
- Removal of fecal coliform variances for Milwaukee area streams (NR 104)

Revisions to Effluent Limits for Sewage Treatment Works (NR 210)

- New *E. coli* limits: In any calendar month:
 - Long-term limit: Monthly geomean of 126 counts/100 mL
 - Short-term limit: No more than 10% of values above 410 counts/100 mL
- Previous fecal coliform limit
 - Long-term limit: Monthly geomean of 400 CFU/100 mL
 - No short-term limit





Communication with Facilities

- During rulemaking, we emailed all sewage treatment plants that disinfect during the economic solicitation period and the public comment periods
- Municipal Environmental Group reviewed rule & provided comments
- Talked with WI Rural Water Association to see if they'd be willing to host training on analytical methods at a statewide meeting
- Email going out by end of the week to all sewage treatment plants that disinfect with basic rule information and effective date

Expressed in Permits

Monitoring Requirements and Limitations

Parameter	Limit Type	Limit and Units	Sample Frequency	Sample Type	Notes
Fecal Coliform	Geometric Mean - Monthly	400 #/100 ml	Current	Grab	Interim limit effective until the final <i>E. coli</i> limit goes into effect
<i>E. coli</i>		#/100 ml	Current	Grab	Monitoring only until the final limit goes into effect
<i>E. coli</i>	Geometric Mean - Monthly	126 #/100 ml	Current	Grab	Final Limit
<i>E. coli</i>	% Exceedance	10 Percent	Monthly	Calculated	Final Limit



Compliance Schedule

- Initially *E. coli* data is not readily available
- Provide flexibility BUT ensure compliance “as soon as possible”
- The schedule was written to capture three phases:
 1. Data Collection and Operational Evaluation
 2. Initiate Operational ImprovementsAnd if needed,
 3. Construction Upgrades



Compliance Schedule

	Schedule Action Item	Explanation
#1	Status Update	In preparation of E. coli monitoring, within the DMR comment section, a facility should document steps taken in preparation for monitoring and testing for E. coli.
#2	Operational Evaluation Report	The report should include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An evaluation of collected effluent data2. Proposed operational improvements3. Implementation timeline

- If Report concludes that the operational improvements **are expected** to result in compliance with the final limits, the permittee shall comply within 12-19 months of permit reissuance.
- If Report concludes that operational improvements alone **are not expected** to result in compliance with the final limits, the permittee shall initiate development of a facility plan for meeting final limits within 48-58 months of permit reissuance.



Compliance Schedule

	Schedule Action Item	Explanation
#3	Submit Facility Plan	Submittal of either a full Facility Plan or an abbreviated facility plan depending on the complexity of the upgrades proposed.
#4	Final Plans and Specifications	Submittal of final construction plans to the Department for approval.
#5	Treatment Plant Upgrade to Meet Limitations	Initiation of bidding, procurement, and/or construction of the project
#6	Construction Upgrade Progress Report	A simple progress report on construction upgrades
#7	Complete Construction	Construction should be completed
#8	Achieve Compliance	Compliance with final E. coli limitations



What Improvements?

- Operational Improvements:
 - Increase chlorine chemical addition
 - Clean lamps & bulbs more often
 - Increase UV intensity
- Improvements Requiring Plans & Specs:
 - Additional tankage for either increased chlorine contact time or additional UV equipment
 - Additional/Upgraded UV Equipment
 - Switch from chlorine disinfection to UV disinfection
 - Additional pumps for chemical addition



Helpful Tips

- Test Method Fact Sheet

<https://dnr.wi.gov/water/wsSWIMSDocument.ashx?documentSeqNo=132254684>

- Bacteria hold time = 8 hours (NR 219.04(2) Table F, Wis. Adm. Code)
- Year Round Disinfection – Can select *E. coli* limits to be effective year round OR receive both fecal and *E. coli* limits
- *E. coli* sampling – recommend starting now



Question: What test method do you use for fecal/E. coli testing?

5 Minute Break

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Lab Updates



Lab Updates

- Proposed NR 149, Wis. Adm Code Changes
 - Postponed until March 1, 2021 with an effective date of September 1, 2021
 - New NR 129 training session will be provided beforehand
 - 6 month transition date to meet new requirements
- PFAs
 - Lab certification still in the works, earliest July 2020
 - In the meantime, use available list
<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Contaminants/Labs.html>



Lab Updates



- Communication
 - Going to GovDelivery, automatically signed up, you can opt out
 - Any changes to lab cert contacts, please contact Tom Trainor ASAP
 - DNR is changing look/function of website early summer, information not available contact Tom Trainor
 - Survey going out to ALL facilities who utilize chlorine or other halogens for disinfection to help access training needs
- Annual Due Dates
 - Environmental Fee Invoices – EMAILED this week (May 18th) and due within 30 days
 - Proficiency testing (PT) due by August 15, 2020



Lab Updates

- Miscellaneous

- All on-site audits are on hold due to COVID-19
- John Condron has retired
- If using HACH TNT kits for TP or NH₃, remember to neutralize before analyzing
- Any concerns on initial or ongoing MDLs, contact auditors or Tom Trainor
- Lab cert want to hear from you! How can they help you? What questions do you have? Training needs (webinars or materials)?



Tom.Trainor@wisconsin.gov

Mobile: (920) 412-5970



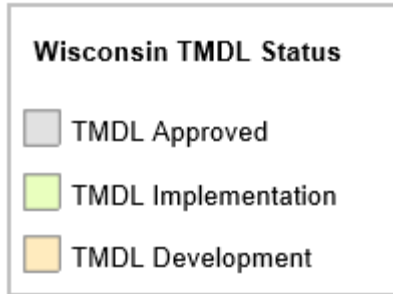
TMDL Updates

Wisconsin River

Upper Fox/Wolf

Northeast Lakeshore

TMDL Basics: 101

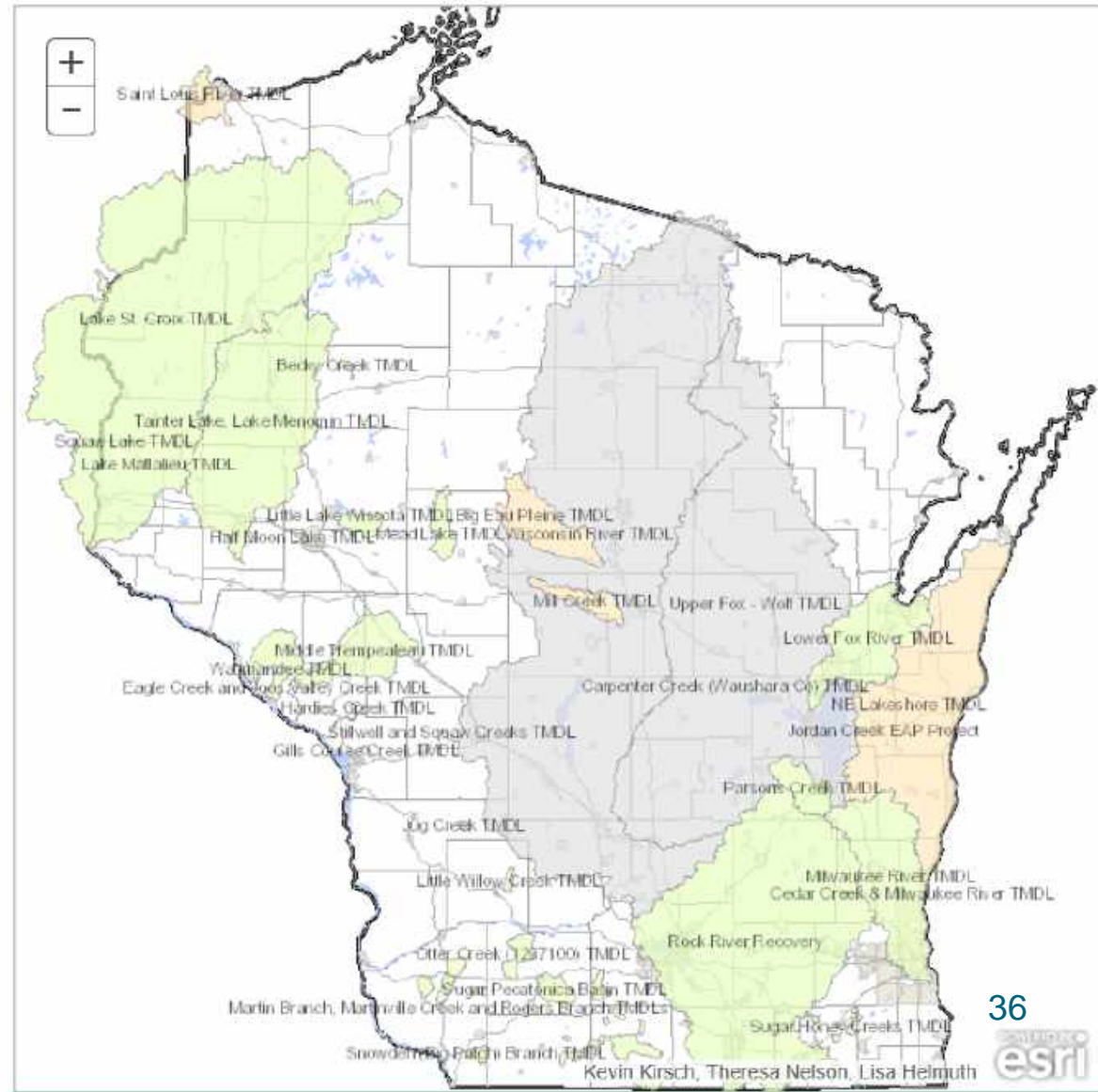


<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/tmdls/>

For more information about any of the TMDLs:

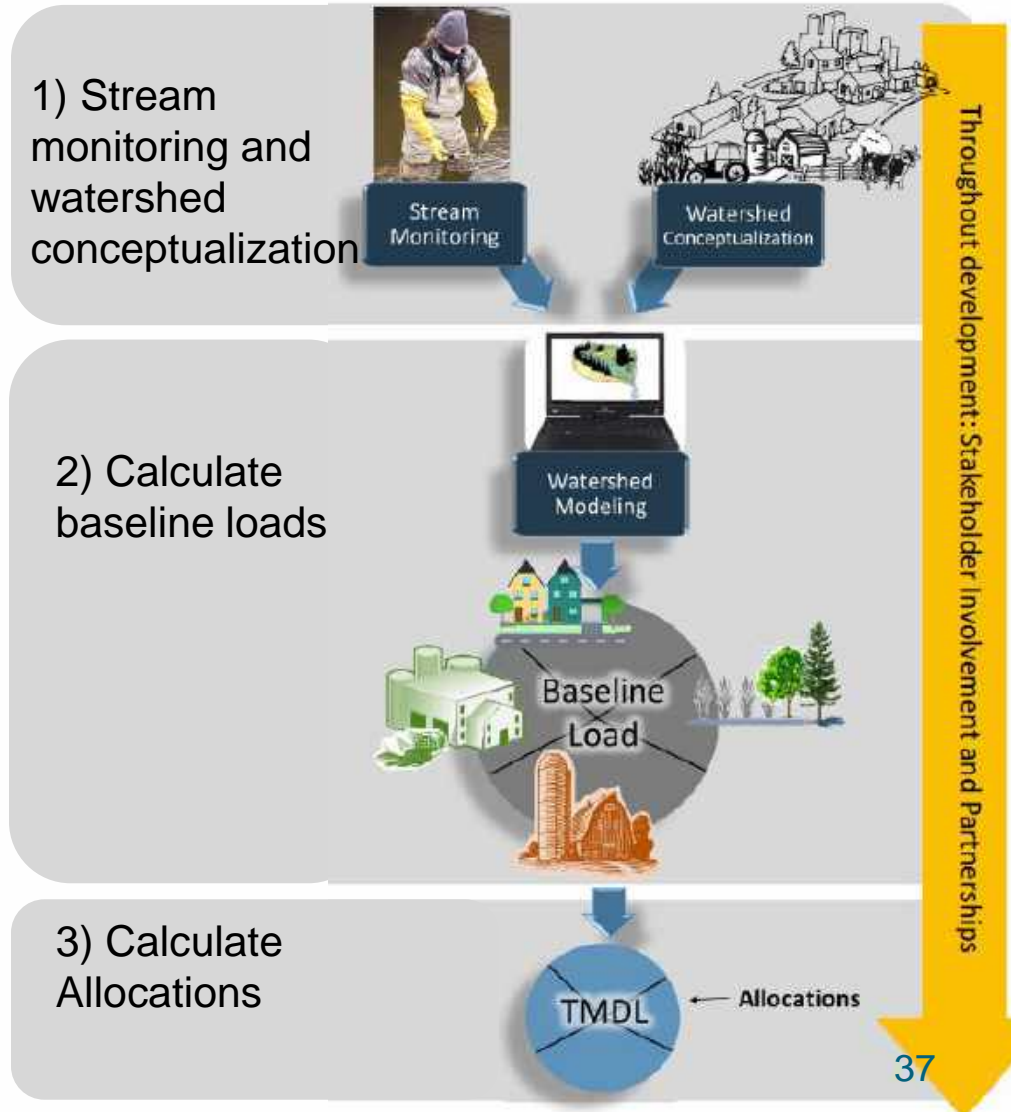
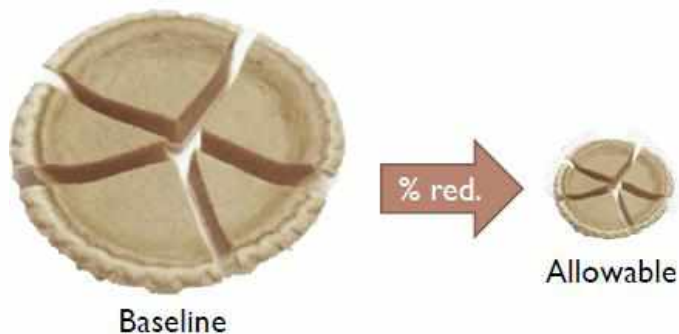


Look for a red mail icon on the TMDL webpages to subscribe for email or text updates about these stakeholder meetings and comment periods.



TMDL Basics: 101

- TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load
- Established under the Clean Water Act
- Maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards





Wisconsin River TMDL

- Pollutants = TP
- TMDL approved by EPA on April 26, 2019
- TP limits expressed as 6-month and monthly avg limits [lbs/day]
- SSC for Lakes Castle Rock, Pentenwell, and Wisconsin passed JCRAR and expected to be effective June 1
- Limits based on SSC will not be in permits until after EPA approval



Upper Fox/Wolf TMDL

- Pollutants = TP & TSS
- TMDL approved by EPA on February 27, 2020
- Permits in the TMDL will now be given TMDL based limits upon reissuance
- TP limits expressed as 6-month and monthly avg limits [lbs/day]
- TSS limits expressed as monthly and weekly avg limits [lbs/day] for POTWs



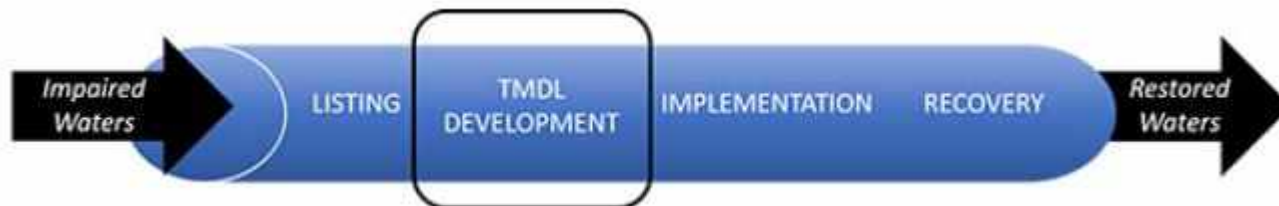
Northeast Lakeshore TMDL

- Pollutants = TSS & TP
- Currently the watershed model is in development to calculate baseline loading of phosphorus and sediment.
- In-person stakeholder meetings were planned for this spring, however they had to get canceled because of COVID-19. These meetings will be rescheduled (no dates yet).
- Purpose of meetings: Introduce project, present WQ data, and present watershed model inputs to stakeholders.
- Facility draft load allocations are expected by early-to-mid 2021.

TMDLs Next in Line

- Lake Mallalieu
- Fox (IL) River Watershed
- Sugar-Pec Watersheds
- Black River Watershed

For more information about any of the TMDLs:





COVID-19 Impacts

DNR Compliance Assistance Website

<https://dnr.wi.gov/emergency/COVID19Compliance.html>



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

COVID-19 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PROCESS



The DNR will work as quickly as possible on a solution in response to the compliance assistance request.

Do not implement alternative methods until receiving DNR written approval.



Operator Certification

- Temporarily suspended ch. NR 114 Wis. Adm. Code requirements for renewal and continuing education deadlines
- Department extending the deadline to renew certifications to November 1, 2020
- [Online training](#) available – check training calendar and preapproved list
- May 6th Exams Cancelled – August exams planned to be held statewide
- WI Rural Water has list of certified operators
- Operator-in-Charge (OIC) can remotely oversee operations – IF NEEDED



Operator Certification

- “New” Subclasses
 - N - Nutrient Removal – Total Nitrogen
 - Applies only to those facilities with TOTAL NITROGEN LIMITS
 - A5 – Biological Treatment – Anaerobic Digestion
 - Applies only to those facilities with anaerobic LIQUID treatment, not biosolids
 - SS – Sanitary Sewer Systems
 - Applies to all WWTPs with collection systems

Operator Certification

- Online Renewal
 - OpCert Website Renew or Exam page

<https://dnrx.wisconsin.gov/elcrenewal>

Requirements Study guides Continuing ed Renew Adv Cert FAQs Newsletter Contacts

Renew

Operator certifications come up for renewal every three years. DNR sends courtesy renewal reminder letters to operators six weeks before their certification expiration date. It is important for operators to **keep their address current** by notifying their regional coordinator of any changes. The letter serves as a courtesy reminder only; it is the operator's responsibility to keep track of their certification expiration date. When the operator is ready to renew, they should mail in the courtesy reminder letter, their continuing education documentation, and the \$45 renewal fee to:

WI DNR
Operator Certification Program - EA/7
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

The renewal materials must be postmarked by the expiration date on the certificate (there is no grace period). Any renewal postmarked after the expiration date should also include the \$25 late penalty fee.

Once a certification expires, an operator has one year from their expiration date to reinstate their lapsed certification. An operator is NOT considered a certified operator during this lapse of certification. If a certification is not renewed within that one year time period, the operator will need to re-take the exams as a new operator.

• [Environmental Licensing and Certification Online Renewal Portal](#)

2020 Exam Schedule

Application available	Postmark deadline	Exam date	Exam location(s)
November 27, 2019	January 8, 2020	February 3, 2020	Plover
February 26, 2020	April 6, 2020	May 6, 2020	Green Bay, Madison, Eau Claire, Rhineland, Rice Lake, West Allis and Plover
May 27, 2020	July 8, 2020	August 5, 2020	Plover
August 26, 2020	October 7, 2020	November 4, 2020	Green Bay, Madison, Eau Claire, Rhineland, Rice Lake, West Allis and Plover

Renew Online

You can now renew wastewater, waterworks and small water systems certification [online](#).



Applications

The Operator Certification program is continuing to provide additional quarterly exams in February and August. These opportunities are in addition to the main exam dates in May and November. They are open to all operators and registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Applications will be accepted until the exam site is full.

Note: The **Social Security Number Collection Request Form** (page 2 of the exam application) only needs to be completed if it is the **first time** an applicant is taking an operator certification exam.

View the [exam application instructions here](#) for more detailed information on how to complete the exam application. Exam fees may be paid by check or money order. Sorry, no credit cards.





Environmental Licensing and Certification Online Renewal Portal


Welcome to the Department of Natural Resources online licensing and certification renewal portal. It is now easier and faster than ever to renew your license or certification. Instead of paying by check or money order, you now have the convenience of paying online with a credit or debit card.

The portal can be used for the following renewal types:

- **Wastewater Operator** certification
- **Municipal Waterworks Operator** certification
- **Small Water System Operator** certification
- **Well Driller** licenses and registrations
- **Pump Installer** licenses and registrations
- **Rig Operator** registrations

To renew your license or certification online, you must have your license/certification number to access the portal. The following conditions must be met before a license or certification is eligible for renewal:

- Continuing Education Credit (CEC) requirements are complete
- The license/certification expires in two months or less
- The license/certification is in good standing
- The license/certification cannot be beyond the expired grace period

 Operators with multiple licenses and shared credits contact us before renewing

Let's get started >>





Question: What topics would you specifically like to hear or have a training on from the DNR?

Question: Any topics that you would like to have a fact sheet or handout developed for?

QUESTIONS



Amy.Garbe@wisconsin.gov
Mobile: (608) 716-9968



The End – Thank you!

Wisconsin DNR Updates Virtual Operator Training ~ May 21, 2020

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