

Report From Agency

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

NR 162, Wis. Adm. Code

Board Order No. CF 13 -13
Clearinghouse Rule No. 14-043

Basis and Purpose of the Proposed Rule

Revisions to ch. NR 162, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) incorporate policy changes and streamlining processes to continue to improve the implementation of the CWFP. This program provides subsidized interest rate loans to municipalities for wastewater infrastructure projects, including treatment facilities, collection systems and urban runoff activities. New on-line technology and more optimal submittal dates are meant to save time and money for both our customers as well as DNR staff.

Summary of Public Comments

There were no significant controversies associated with these rule revisions. Internal and external advisory groups participated in the revision process and provided positive feedback about the proposed revisions and revision-making process. The last action of the NRB was approval of the scope statement at its June 2013 meeting. Public hearings were held on July 29th at 5 locations throughout the state. No customers participated in the public hearings. During the public comment period, we received technical clarification comments from 1 customer and other general support comments from 2 customers. Those comments and responses to those comments are in Attachment 1 - Responsiveness Summary.

Modifications Made

See Attachment 1.

Appearances at the Public Hearing

There were no appearances at the hearings.

Changes to Rule Analysis and Fiscal Estimate

No changes were needed.

Response to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse Report

See attachment 1.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The rule will have minimal economic or fiscal impacts on businesses or municipalities seeking funding from the Clean Water Fund Program. General eligibility criteria are prescribed by the federal Clean Water Act and the costs for obtaining funding is prescribed by State Statutes. The rule revisions simplify and clarify protocols and streamline processes but don't affect overall ability of municipalities to seek and obtain financing or the rates of that financing. Streamlining the program may result in slightly less costs for municipalities to make improvements to their infrastructure projects, which could mean more engineering and construction jobs available.