

Letter of Email
from DNR

Mr. Fulwiler -

I am responding to an email you submitted to Governor Evers regarding the city of Waukesha's proposal to obtain Lake Michigan water from the city of Milwaukee, and return wastewater to the Root River. The city of Waukesha's proposal to obtain Lake Michigan water is regulated under the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (compact), and several DNR permit processes.

Waukesha originally submitted an application for use of Lake Michigan water to the DNR in 2010, then updated their application in 2013. Following the DNR's technical review and preliminary final environmental impact statement analysis, the city of Waukesha's Great Lakes diversion application was approved by the compact council in June 2016 with conditions that included:

- * a reduced diversion volume of 8.2 million gallons per day;
- * a smaller diversion area of only the area currently served by the Waukesha water utility;
- * monitoring wastewater impacts to the Root River; and
- * annual reporting to the Great Lakes states and provinces on the diversion.

On Dec. 13, 2019, the DNR completed a final environmental impact statement (EIS) [PDF]<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EIA/documents/Waukesha/WaukeshaProposedDiversion_FinalEIS.pdf> for the proposed project, and issued a determination of compliance with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act

[PDF]<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EIA/documents/Waukesha/WaukeshaProposedDiversion_WEPAComplianceDetermination.pdf>.

Earlier this year, the DNR issued a waterway and wetland permit for the construction of water supply and return flow pipelines and has reissued the city of Waukesha's Wisconsin pollutant discharge elimination system (WPDES) wastewater permit, which includes conditions and requirements for the discharge of treated wastewater to the Root River. The DNR has also approved the clean water plant facility amendment. (see permits review<<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EIA/waukesha/PermitsReview.html>>).

The DNR will issue a final diversion approval once all required permits are issued. The final diversion approval will include all conditions of the approval required by the compact council. Construction completion and beginning of operation is currently planned for 2023. More information regarding the DNR process can be found at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EIA/waukesha>. If you have additional questions, please contact me free to contact me (benjamin.callan@wi.gov<<mailto:benjamin.callan@wi.gov>>).

Thanks, Ben

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Sources included in this Email

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EIA/documents/Waukesha/WaukeshaProposedDiversion_FinaleIS.pdf

https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EIA/documents/Waukesha/WaukeshaProposedDiversion_WEPAComplianceDetermination.pdf

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/EIA/waukesha/PermitsReview.html>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey>

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