

From: [OJ Ojinaga](#)
To: [Jeffrey Dewey \(Dewey.Jeffrey@epa.gov\)](mailto:Jeffrey.Dewey@epa.gov); [Paddock, Jeffrey J - DNR](#)
Subject: Wausau - EPA approval for EW-1
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 10:54:04 AM
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[FInal EW-1 Shutdown Approval.signed.pdf](#)

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Jeff-

Please see the attached EPA approval letter for the shutdown of EW-1.

Thanks-

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Project Manager/Engineer

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**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5**

Mr. Kiel R. Jenkin
Group's Project Manager, Wausau NPL Superfund Site
GHD
1801 Old Highway 8 NW Suite 114
St. Paul, MN 55112 USA
Kiel.Jenkin@ghd.com
Via email

November 19, 2021

RE: Approval of Request to Permanently Shut Down EW1 as a Remediation Well and Conditional Approval of Request to Abandon EW1 (and associated infrastructure) subject to the submission and approval of a workplan detailing the scope of work; Wausau Groundwater Contamination National Priorities List Superfund Site (Wausau NPL Superfund Site)

Dear Mr. Jenkin,

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) hereby provide approval of the Wausau Group of Responsible Parties (Group)'s request to permanently shut down extraction well (EW)1, a former remediation well and conditional approval of the request to abandon EW1 and associated infrastructure at the Wausau NPL Superfund Site.

Approval to Permanently Shut Down EW1

EW1 was installed in 1990 to remove a hot spot of groundwater contamination consisting of thousands of parts per billion (ppb) of total volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations at the west well field and to prevent the migration of high concentrations of VOCs in the source area groundwater to the west well field. Through a combination of more than 30 years of groundwater remediation, source area remediation, institutional controls, and continued hydraulic control and treatment of the remaining plume by CW6 and CW3, EW1 has since accomplished its performance goals and the current groundwater VOCs near the former source area have decreased to less than 10 ppb, and VOCs in EW1 are currently non-detect. Furthermore, EW1 lies within the capture area of the two City remediation wells designed to capture any residual contamination in that area. Therefore, continued operation of EW1, as an extraction well, is no longer necessary nor critical relative to the protection of potential groundwater receptors and the shutdown of EW1 as an extraction well is approved.

The approval is based on studies done by the Group according to the approved EW1 Shutdown Pilot Study Workplan that were conducted along with subsequent periodic monitoring. The pilot study was initiated in the fall of 2013 and was designed to provide data to detect or confirm aquifer conditions in six principal areas which are 1) plume containment; 2) no groundwater

receptors; 3) safe city water supply; 4) remediation of the (R3D) stagnation area; 5) continued remediation of EW1 area; and 6) continued remediation of the east bank plume. Review of these data indicate that, once EW1 was shut down, concentration trends of VOCs have changed near the west bank source area, but that all impacted groundwater is contained and captured by the two City of Wausau remediation wells, CW3 and CW6. Monitoring was performed after EW1 was shut down and the monitoring was conducted in accordance with the approved EW1 Shutdown Pilot Study Work Plan along with at least 5 (five) additional years of monitoring. The results of the Pilot Study were presented in the Pilot Study Report, the Pilot Study Addendum and the annual monitoring reports submitted by the Group along with the Five-Year Reviews conducted by U.S. EPA, in conjunction with the WDNR.

Given that the current groundwater VOC concentrations near the former source area have greatly decreased and that EW1 lies within the capture area of other extraction wells and recent groundwater samples from the well indicate that no VOCs are present in EW1, continued operation of EW1 is no longer critical (relative to the protection of potential groundwater receptors). In summary, all of this information has been fully analyzed to support the conclusion that EW1 and is no longer necessary to operate as an extraction or remediation well.

Conditional Approval to Abandon EW1 and Associated Infrastructure

Additionally, based on a review of the existing wells in the area, and the purpose of the groundwater monitoring program, EW1 is no longer necessary as a monitoring well location since there are numerous wells in that area. Abandonment of that well and associated infrastructure is conditionally approved subject to submission and approval of a workplan detailing the scope of work.

We appreciate the continued collaboration for this project. If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact me at (312) 886-4745 or bianchin.sheri@epa.gov.

Sincerely,
Sheri Bianchin
Sheri L. Bianchin
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Mathew A. Thompson, WDNR
Steven Kaiser, EPA
Amy Gahala, USGS