



June 18, 2026

DNR Project No. CW-0002

Mr. Peter Hartz, Water & Wastewater Utilities Manager
City of Watertown
800 Hoffman Drive P.O. Box 477
Watertown, WI 53094

[Subject: City of Watertown SSA Amendment](#)

Dear Mr. Hartz:

On May 21, 2026, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received the proposed Sanitary Sewer Service Area (SSSA) Plan Amendment from the City of Watertown. The purpose of the amendment is for a proposed land addition to the City of Watertown SSSA. The amendment will result in an SSSA increase of about 57 acres to allow for full use of a utility extension project in the Town of Emmett.

Amendment Area

The SSSA Plan Amendment would include the addition of approximately 57 acres to the SSSA to include sanitary sewer extensions in the north side of the City of Watertown, specifically portions of Second Street, Prospect Street, Center Street, and Boulder Road. The amendment area was annexed into the City of Watertown from the Town of Emmett in September 2024.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas are located within the amendment boundary. Any required wetland or waterway disturbance permits should be obtained prior to utility construction. Assuming that all applicable Federal, State, and local permits are obtained, and that proper site development and construction practices are employed, there should be no significant adverse water quality impacts attributable to the development of the planned sanitary sewer service area. Stormwater and sediment control practices shall be implemented to meet all regulatory standards.

Wastewater Treatment System

The City of Watertown's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) has adequate capacity to handle the additional flow generated by the subject area.

Local Review & Public Involvement

A public hearing was held on June 11, 2024, where the City of Watertown approved the annexation of the amendment area into the City of Watertown from the Town of Emmett. At the hearing, several citizens discussed concerns regarding utility construction costs and impacts to properties. On May 21, 2026, the City submitted the proposed amendment to the DNR recommending approval. A revised amendment was subsequently submitted to the DNR on June 3, 2026.



Administrative Decision

The Department finds the proposed amendment is consistent with adopted policies and procedures of the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan under chapter NR 121, Wis. Adm. Code, and section 283.83, Wis. Stats., and is hereby approved.

Statewide AWQM Plan Amendment

This amendment is a formal amendment to the state's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan and the Watertown Sewer Service Area Plan. The City of Watertown SSSA Amendment will be forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act of 1987 (Public Law 92-500 as amended by Public Law 95-217) and outlined in the code of federal regulations, 40 CFR Part 35. This review is an integrated analysis action under s. NR 150.20(2)(a)3., Wis. Adm. Code. By means of this review, the department has complied with ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, and with s. 1.11, Wis. Stats. The approval of this SSSA amendment does not constitute approval of any other required local, state, or federal permit for sewer construction or associated land development activities.

Appeal Rights:

Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., a party has 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the department, to file a petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the department. Such a petition for judicial review must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent. To request a contested case hearing pursuant to s. 227.42, Wis. Stats., a party has 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. All requests for contested case hearings must be made in accordance with s. NR 2.05(5), Wis. Adm. Code, and served on the Secretary in accordance with s. NR 2.03, Wis. Adm. Code. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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P.O. Box 7921
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Update Needed for Future Proposed Changes to SSSA Plan:

Chapter NR 121, Wis. Adm. Code, establishes a planning period of 20-years for Areawide Water Quality Management Plans. The City of Watertown SSSA Plan was originally created in 2002, over 20-years ago. As a result, future proposed changes to the SSSA Plan will require a comprehensive update to consider a 20-year planning period looking forward.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Timothy R. Asplund in cursive.

Timothy R. Asplund
Monitoring Section Manager
Bureau of Water Quality

Handwritten signature of Nate Willis in cursive.

Nate Willis, P.E.
Wastewater Section Manager
Bureau of Water Quality

CC:

Alexa Mydlach – Water Resources Management Specialist, DNR Madison
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