



July 7, 2026

DNR Project No. NC-0005

Mr. Darryl Landeau, Senior Planner
North Central WI Regional Planning Commission
210 McClellan Street, Suite 210
Wausau WI 54403

Subject: NCWRPC City of Merrill Sewer Service Area Plan 2050 Update Administrative Decision

Dear Mr. Landeau:

The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC), on behalf of the City of Merrill, officially requested on March 5, 2026, that the Department of Natural Resources (Department) perform an administrative review of the City of Merrill Sewer Service Area Plan 2050 Update. The department received drafts of the Plan on October 8, 2025, and December 30, 2025, and subsequently reviewed them and provided feedback. A public hearing of the final draft occurred March 3, 2026, followed by Committee approval. The local municipalities will adopt the Plan, pending administrative approval from the department.

The Department finds the Plan update is consistent with water quality standards under s. 281.15, Wis. Stats., and is hereby approved. This Plan update is a formal amendment to the state's Areawide Water Quality Management Plan, per ch. NR 121, Wis. Adm. Code. The Plan update 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 SSA Plan 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.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Asplund

Timothy R. Asplund
Monitoring Section Manager
Bureau of Water Quality

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

E-CC:

Helena Tiedmann – Water Quality Planning Coordinator, DNR Madison
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Jennifer Croonborg-Murphy, Waterways Supervisor, DNR Ashland
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