

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters and Outstanding Resource Waters Bad River Fish House

The Tribe seeks comments on the shop located at 65239 US Hwy 2 will be converted into a fish processing facility with retail area for the local commercial fisheries. The Planning Department will use the existing building and upgrade plumbing, electrical, and interior finishes. This facility will be able to clean and sell fish along with freezer and cooler storage.

Project Summary:

The Fish House located at 65239 US Highway 2 is need of upgrades to be functional for its intended use. The electric will be upgraded, to accommodate the freezers and other equipment inside. The electric pedestal will be moved along the edge of the wood line on the east side of the building. There will be a new well drilled south of the building and a new mound system installed on the east side of the building. Planning also intends on upgrading the parking lot.

The Tribe is currently evaluating whether the project meets the Antidegradation Demonstration requirements and the Decision criteria described in the Tribe's WQS and seeks comments on the proposed work and conditions needed to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the water resources. All comments are considered during the project review. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Water Regulatory Specialist at (715) 979-1370 or WaterReg@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

Lorrie Salawater, Water Regulatory Specialist
Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861

Comment deadline is July 31, 2021

Background

On July 6, 2011, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians adopted **Water Quality Standards (WQS)**. The Antidegradation policy within the Water Quality Standards protects existing uses and prevents clean waters from being unnecessarily degraded. Under this policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that have the potential to lower water quality. Tiers identified in the Tribe's antidegradation policy include: Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (Tier 3 waters), Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier 2.5 waters), and Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 waters). The Antidegradation Policy holds that **no new or increased discharges or alterations of the background conditions are allowed to Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters; however, a short-term, temporary lowering of water quality may be allowed if applicable Antidegradation Demonstration and Decision requirements are met, as described in the WQS.**

A webmap of the Reservation waterways and wetlands, highlighting the tiers associated with each waterbody, may be found on the Bad River website (under Services>Natural Resources>Maps & GIS Services. The link is found in the Interactive Maps section).
<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f44c371217e4ee8b5f1c2c705c7c7c5>