

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Fiber to Homes Project

The Tribe seeks comments on the Fiberoptic to Homes Project is Superior Connections putting cable lines to homes.

Project Summary

The Fiber to Homes Project will be done in phases. That will allow for the customers to have a better quality of internet from Superior Connections. This project is designed to avoid wetlands or use Horizontal Directional Drilling(HDD) so the wetlands will not be disturbed. The contractor will use construction best management practices (BMPs) when installing the fiber lines. In the upland areas the installation of the fiber lines will be done by trenching.

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 Program Manager at (715) 682-7123 or WQS@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

Chris McNerney, Water Program Manager
Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861

Comment deadline is March 31, 2023

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>