

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Health and Wellness Center Boring Holes

The Tribe seeks comments on the boring holes for the soil study for the Health and Wellness Center expansion.

Project Summary

The Health and Wellness Center would like to conduct seven boring hole digs to find out if the land is buildable around the current Health and Wellness Center. This project will be conducted to make sure that the land around the center is buildable and will be able to expand the current building. These seven holes will be on the west and the north sides of the building. Once the boring is completed the holes will be backfilled and the layers will be put back in place as they were taken out.

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
Mashkiizibii Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861

Comment deadline is March 1, 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>

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