

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Franksfield to Birch Hill Water Consolidation Phase 3 Project.

**The Tribe seeks comments on the proposed Antidegradation Decision related to the Phase 3 of the Franksfield to Birch Hill Water Consolidation Project.**

#### **Project Summary**

The Bad River Water and Sewer Department has proposed to install an eight-inch water main line from Franksfield to Birch Hill community and constructing a new water tower and pumphouse adjacent to the existing facility located on Birch Hill. The purpose of this project is to connect Franksfield/Aspen Acres and Birch Hill water systems into one larger system. The proposed eight-inch water main line would be installed to run parallel to the existing gas lines from Franksfield to Birch Hill community. The proposed project consists of tree removal, installing the water main line, abandoning the existing Franksfield water tower, and the Birch Hill water tower and pumphouse. The proposed project will add a new water tower and pumphouse located at the corner of Birch Hill Road and Firebreak Road. Consolidating multiple smaller systems into one larger system will help reduce operating costs and will allow growth within communities while providing necessary improvements to the systems. All wetlands are classified as Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 waters) under the Tribe's Antidegradation Policy.

**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. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

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**Comment deadline is December 4, 2024.**

#### **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 water from being unnecessarily degraded. Under this policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that have been 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 Water Quality Standards.

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