

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Franksfield and Aspen Acres Sewer Replacement Project

The Tribe seeks comments on the proposed Antidegradation Decision related to the Franksfield and Aspen Acres Sewer Replacement Project.

Project Summary

The Bad River Water and Sewer Department is proposing to do a sewer replacement on the existing Franksfield and Aspen Acres Sewer System. The purpose of this project is to address excessive inflow and infiltration within the existing Sewer System. The proposed project will abandon the existing effluent sewer/septic tanks and replace them with a full gravity system and the existing lift station in Franksfield would be upgraded with new pumps and controls. In addition, there will be approximately 7,500 feet of sewer main, 26 manholes, and 8,920 feet of sewer services lines installed. The proposed project is anticipated to have minor wetland impacts due to equipment access and construction activities. The proposed project activities are scheduled to commence in late spring of 2026. All wetlands are classified as Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 Water) 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:

Kaylee Houle, Water Regulatory Specialist
Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD)
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
waterreg@badriver-nsn.gov

Comment deadline is November 24, 2025.

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 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>

Posted: October 24, 2025