

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters Bad River Housing Authority Residential Development

The Tribe seeks comments on the proposed Antidegradation Decision related to the Bad River Housing Authority Residential Development project.

Project Summary

The Bad River Housing Authority (BRHA) has proposed a residential development project at an existing lot located at 66947 Bayfront Road. The proposed project consists of the installation of two (2) three-bedroom manufactured homes, construction of two (2) 12-foot by 25-foot single-car garages, installation of water and sewer utilities, and construction of a new driveway to provide site access. The proposed project will increase housing for local community members. Construction activities are anticipated to begin in Fall 2026. 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:

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

Comment deadline is August 6, 2026.

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>

Posted: July 7, 2026