

PUBLIC NOTICE

On July 6, 2011, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians adopted Water Quality Standards (WQS). One of the three key components of the WQS is an antidegradation policy, which protects existing uses and prevents clean waters from being unnecessarily degraded. Under the antidegradation policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that would, or have the potential to, lower the quality of a body of water. 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).

No new or increased discharges or alterations of the background conditions are allowed to Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (Tier 3 waters); however, a short-term, temporary lowering of water quality may be allowed provided that such discharge will arise entirely from one of the actions listed in provision E.3.ii. in the Tribe's WQS and meets the antidegradation demonstration and decision requirements described in provisions E.4.iv. and E.5.ii. in the Tribe's WQS.

The Tribe seeks comments on the proposed antidegradation decision related to the New Odanah/Diaperville Community Water System Improvement Project. The proposed project involves installing a water main from the New Odanah community to the Diaperville community to provide the Diaperville community with safe drinking water. The project location is west of New Odanah along U.S. Highway 2 to Old Highway 2 to State Street to Old Odanah Road to Caville Road. The project includes boring underneath the Bad River.

The potential increase loading associated with this project may occur during the construction phase. To minimize the potential loading that may occur during the construction phase, the majority of the water main will be installed via directional drilling method. Additionally, the majority of the ground disturbances are temporary and will be restored immediately. Furthermore, best management practices (BMPs), such as erosion and sedimentation controls, will be implemented during the implementation of the project.

As the New Odanah/Diaperville Community Water System Improvement Project meets the antidegradation demonstration requirements and decision criteria described in the Tribe's WQS, the proposed antidegradation decision is an approval of this project. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Water Resources Specialist at (715) 682-7123 or wqs@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments can be sent via email or post office to:

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Comment deadline is September 16, 2016.