



Looking Ahead to the new Wisconsin Administration – December 13, 2018

The Wisconsin constitution says all the waters of the State are public waters. By statute the management and protection of all surface and groundwaters have been delegated to the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) for the benefit of ALL the citizens of Wisconsin, not just to for-profit businesses.

Alas, the DNR's political appointees have abdicated their responsibility to protect the waters of the State by their irresponsible issuance of high capacity well permits to for-profit businesses. In the following examples DNR scientists have already determined the named Class 1 trout streams are adversely impacted by nearby existing wells.

In a 2017 citizen lawsuit filed in Dane County the circuit court nullified the DNR's issuance of seven high capacity well permits. Five of these were in Portage County: (1) permits # 73907, # 91165 and # 74235 located 8,900 feet from Stoltenburg Creek with a total pumping capacity of 3.43 million gallons per day; (2) permit # 91036 located 1,850 feet from Fourmile Creek with a pumping capacity of 720,000 gallons per day; and (3) permit # 91127 located 1,300 feet from Buena Vista Creek with a capacity of 1.44 million gallons per day.

What was the government's response to the court's ruling? The State's chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Brad Schimel, filed an appeal with the appellate court. Not to be outdone the DNR went ahead and issued NEW permits to three new applicants for essentially identical wells! In (1) above they issued permit # 74131 with a NEW capacity of 1.152 million gallons per day and allowed the well to be located 3,200 feet CLOSER to Stoltenburg Creek! In (2) above they issued permit # 92341 for 1.44 million gallons per day AND allowed the well to be located 170 feet CLOSER to Fourmile Creek! In (3) above they issued permit # 92386 with the same capacity and proximity to Buena Vista Creek.

Native trout and all of God's creatures in Class 1 trout streams require cold and clean water, free of agricultural chemicals and untreated animal sewage, to survive. Trout and Class 1 trout streams provide significant economic impact to the State treasury. Ask Trout Unlimited.

We sincerely hope that the incoming Governor, DNR Secretary and Wisconsin Attorney General will commit to working on solutions for sustainable groundwater management that benefits all of us now and for future generations to come.

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Chair, Central Sands Water Action Coalition

The Central Sands Water Action Coalition represents more than 32,000 members and their families in 59 lake associations, districts and organizations concerned with negative impacts on water resources in the Central Sands Region of Wisconsin.

www.centalsandswater.org