



WISCONSIN'S
Water Resource Program

Job Information

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WISCONSIN'S WATER RESOURCE PROGRAM

FORMULATION OF LONG-RANGE COMPREHENSIVE PLANS. These plans are to guide the development, management and protection of Wisconsin's water resources. A long-range plan must be initially developed for each water management region by July 1, 1968. Thereafter, plans will be periodically reviewed, updated and submitted to the Governor every two years.

ESTABLISHMENT OF WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR ALL STATE WATERS. The establishment of desirable criteria of water quality provides a means to protect our waters for present and potential uses. The department is presently cooperating with adjoining states and the United States Department of Interior on the establishment of standards for interstate waters to meet federal requirements imposed by the Federal Water Quality Act of 1965.

ADMINISTRATION OF STATE AND CERTAIN FEDERAL FINANCIAL AIDS FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL. Wisconsin's Water Resources Act of 1965 created a \$6 million annual state financial assistance program to aid municipalities in constructing pollution prevention and abatement facilities such as sewerage collection systems and sewerage treatment plants. The department also administers the federal grant-in-aid program for the construction of sewerage treatment facilities. In this regard, it reviews aid applications for technical accuracy and need and arranges them in priorities to receive aid as funds are available.

DIRECTION OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL EFFORTS OF THE STATE. The department investigates all complaints, holds hearings on alleged or potential sources of pollution, and orders the correction of pollution problems. In pollution cases which are potentially dangerous to public health, the department works closely with the State Board of Health. In addition, the Conservation Department assists the department by investigating sources of pollution which are not continuous, such as the occasional dumping of debris and noxious substances in lakes.

SUPERVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES. Plans are reviewed and approved, and periodic reports are evaluated to determine the effectiveness of waste treatment methods. Studies are conducted in cooperation with industries to analyze the characteristics of industrial wastes and investigate new methods to economically treat or utilize wastes.

DIRECTION OF AN INTENSIVE STREAM AND LAKE SURVEY PROGRAM. The purposes are to obtain water quality data, locate sources of pollution, and determine their effect upon water quality. The reports prepared from these surveys form the basis upon which orders are issued by the department to polluters. Such orders specify the source of pollution, the means by which it should be eliminated and a schedule for compliance. In cases of noncompliance, the orders are turned over to the Attorney General to seek court enforcement.

SUPERVISION OF CHEMICAL TREATMENT OF LAKES. Applications and treatment plans are reviewed, and department personnel supervise the actual treatment of recreational waters for the control of algae, rooted aquatic weeds and swimmers itch.

SUPERVISION OF THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF INSTITUTIONAL AND PUBLIC SEWERAGE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEMS. This is done to insure the protection of public health and the prevention of water pollution. Plans and specifications for new systems are reviewed and approved prior to construction. Methods of treating and disposing of sewage are investigated, and technical assistance is rendered to municipalities. Facilities are inspected periodically and reports of laboratory tests and operating procedures are reviewed monthly.

SUPERVISION OF THE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS. The purpose of this is to insure the potability of the water and proper operating procedures. New plans are reviewed and approved, technical assistance is provided to communities and operations are reviewed and inspected.

ADMINISTRATION OF A MANDATORY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS. As a further means to insure safe and efficient operation of these systems, all waterworks and sewerage treatment plant operators must be certified by January 1, 1969. Continued in-service training and certification programs will be conducted in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin extension service.

ADMINISTRATION OF A LICENSING PROGRAM FOR ALL WELL DRILLERS AND PUMP INSTALLERS. This is done to insure safe construction of private and quasi-public wells and proper pump installation. Studies of ground water supplies and systems are conducted, and technical assistance to well drillers is provided. Investigations are made into the use of abandoned quarries and gravel pits for waste disposal. In addition, the department regulates the installation of high capacity wells. It approves applications for high capacity wells and reviews reports of water quantity use and subsequent effects on the ground water aquifer. Studies of wells are also made in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin to determine the extent and danger of detergent and other chemical pollutants in ground water supplies.

DIRECTION OF THE USE AND INSTALLATION OF SEPTIC TANKS. The department has authority to prohibit the installation or use of septic tanks in any area of the state where such use would impair water quality. The improper use of septic tanks is a potential source of pollution, especially in areas adjoining lakes where location or soil conditions do not provide an adequate septic field. Effective January 1, 1967, the department must approve all provisions of the state plumbing code which set specifications for septic tanks and their installation. Close liaison is maintained with the State Board of Health which licenses plumbers and maintains a septic tank permit system.

REGULATION OF SHORELANDS AND FLOOD PLAINS. Since water use and land use are closely interrelated, the department is required to prepare guidelines for regulating shoreland and flood plain use. Within these guidelines, counties and municipalities are required to exercise subdivision control over shorelands and to adopt flood plain zoning ordinances to reduce the incidence of flood damage and prevent pollution of our waters. The department administers a \$40,000 annual grant-in-aid program to assist counties in formulating suitable regulations. If reasonable and effective shoreland or flood plain zoning ordinances are not enacted by January 1, 1968, the department is authorized to adopt sufficient regulations to protect the shorelands and flood plains for suitable uses. Close coordination with the United States Corps of Engineers and United States Geological Survey is maintained to benefit from their experience in flood plain zoning.

REGULATION OF WATER LEVELS AND USAGE (EFFECTIVE 7/1/67). The department will establish water levels and flows on streams and lakes affected by dams, and it will authorize the diversion of surplus water to sustain normal water levels. It will also issue permits to divert water for agricultural purposes (irrigation) and mining operations. Permits may be issued to authorize the alteration or improvement of navigable watercourse beds to establish new shorelines or improve flood control and recreational facilities. Permits are also required to remove materials from the beds of navigable waters. In general, the regulation of water levels and usage requires the review of applications, on-the-site inspections in certain instances, the holding of a public hearing, and a decision based on the evidence presented during the hearing. The department works closely with the Conservation Department on matters affecting trout streams, water diversions and stream relocation and with the State Highway Commission on the placement of bridges. In cooperation with the United States Geological Survey gauging stations are maintained on a cost sharing basis to obtain data on water flow, levels, sediment load and effect of stream flow on ground water level.

REGULATION OF STRUCTURES IN NAVIGABLE WATERS. The department will issue permits to construct and operate dams and will inspect them for safety at periodic intervals. The establishment of bulkheads and any other structures to be placed in navigable streams requires a permit. The department must also approve the construction of all bridges 35 feet or more in length which traverse a watercourse.

WATER RESEARCH. These activities are carried on in conjunction with the accelerated water research program coordinated by the Water Resource Center at the University of Wisconsin. Some of the research studies include the economic evaluation of pollution abatement measures, the evaluation of the effectiveness of sewage effluent ponds, and determination of the effects of fertilization and pesticide use in ground water. Many of these studies are being cooperatively pursued with University professors and lab technicians.

Wisconsin State Personnel Program

Wisconsin has had over sixty years of continuous civil service. High professional standards are a basic part of the Wisconsin tradition and have helped us to obtain national recognition as a leader in civil service. In order to attract and encourage good staff, the state makes every effort to maintain standards that are parallel to those in Wisconsin industry and commerce. The personnel management program is progressive and is designed to meet the needs of a modern, expanding organization.

Salary

New employes are usually appointed at the beginning of the range and are eligible for their first raises after six months of successful employment. Annual merit raises can increase the salary to the top of the range. State salary ranges are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the cost of living as measured by the Consumers' Price Index. Also, there is an annual review of the whole salary plan to keep salaries in line with competitive employers.

Advancement

Promotion within the service is both a policy and a fact. The great majority of higher level opportunities are filled through competitive promotional examinations which are open to members of the state service. In a new and expanding program the opportunities are particularly rewarding.

Family Protection

The state contributes toward family protection programs such as group life, hospital and medical insurance, and an excellent retirement program. The total monthly value of the state's contribution varies with the salary and the types of coverage chosen by the employe.

Vacation and Leave

State employes earn paid vacation, holidays and sick leave. Leaves of absence may be granted up to one year for purposes such as specialized graduate training.

Military Leave

Departments can and do hire men who have not completed their military training. Provision is made to provide leaves of absence to individuals who have to complete their active duty. In addition, up to fifteen days annually are granted with no loss of pay or vacation to members of the military reserve.

For any other information, write to:

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1 West Wilson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

November 1966