

**State of Wisconsin**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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April 22, 2016

Barbara L. Wester  
Associate Regional Counsel  
US EPA Region 5; Mail Code C-14J  
77 West Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

RE: Draft Protocol for Responding to Issues Related to the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program presented in the Midwest Environmental Advocates. Inc. Petition for Review

Dear Ms. Wester:

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has received the draft protocol US EPA proposes to use to respond to the issues raised by MEA's Petition. We understand the draft protocol is a customary step in US EPA's process, and we appreciate your request for comments.

The Draft Protocol states that US EPA expects to visit WDNR's offices as part of EPA's process. To ensure your visit is most productive and efficient, we request you provide us with 60 days advance notice of the specific questions you plan to ask and the information that you would like to review. This is important so that we can have the appropriate staff and documents available.

As part of the Draft Protocol, you indicate that US EPA plans to continue working with WDNR to review and document the resolution of the issues identified in USEPA's July 18, 2015, letter. We welcome this opportunity to confirm the progress we have made in resolving those issues. We, also, welcome the opportunity to address the other questions raised regarding Wisconsin's WPDES program. Rest assured that Wisconsin remains committed to administering the WPDES permit program in a manner that is consistent with the Clean Water Act and federal regulations. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan L. Sylvester'.

Susan Sylvester, Director  
Water Quality Bureau