

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

SUBJECT: Overview of how the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) uses methods established in the 1983 Groundwater Law, ch. 160, Wis. Stats., to develop groundwater enforcement standard recommendations at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). These groundwater standard recommendations then are proposed for inclusion as part of DNR's process of amending ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code.

FOR: December 2021 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Dr. Sarah Yang, Groundwater Toxicologist and Program Manager for Environmental and Occupational Health at the Wisconsin Division of Public Health

SUMMARY:

Dr. Sarah Yang is the Groundwater Toxicologist with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Her job duties include developing recommendations for groundwater standards, conducting human health risk assessment activities and conducting toxicological surveillance activities relating to health outcomes and chemical exposures. Before starting at DHS in 2017, Sarah was an environmental toxicologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources where she worked on water quality standards related policy development. Sarah holds a Doctoral degree in Molecular and Environmental Toxicology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

The objective of this informational item is to explain the methods the Department of Health Services (DHS) uses for establishing groundwater enforcement standard recommendations established in ch. 160, Wis. Stats. These DHS recommendations are then, per state law, provided to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) so the DNR may begin administrative rulemaking to set numerical standards for consistent use in state regulatory programs to minimize the concentration of polluting substances in groundwater. The DNR then proposes amendments to ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code, to establish new state groundwater quality standards for substances detected in, or having a reasonable probability of entering, the groundwater resources of the state, provided sufficient scientifically valid technical information exists to allow the DHS to develop recommendations for standards.

RECOMMENDATION: Information only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- Background memo
Type name of attachment if applicable

- Type name of attachment if applicable
Type name of attachment if applicable

Table with 3 columns: Approved by, Signature, Date. Rows include James Zellmer, Darsi Foss, and Preston D. Cole.

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8

DS
WJR

by Todd Ambs

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 15, 2021

TO: All Members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Background memo relating to an overview of how the Wisconsin Department of Health Services uses methods established in the 1983 Groundwater Law, ch. 160, Wis. Stats., to develop groundwater enforcement standard recommendations at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. These groundwater standard recommendations then are proposed for inclusion as part of DNR's process of amending ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code.

The objective of this informational item is to explain the methods the Department of Health Services (DHS) uses for establishing groundwater enforcement standard recommendations established in ch. 160, Wis. Stats. These DHS recommendations are then, per state law, provided to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) so the DNR may begin administrative rulemaking to set numerical standards for consistent use in state regulatory programs to minimize the concentration of polluting substances in groundwater. The DNR then proposes amendments to ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code, to establish new state groundwater quality standards for substances detected in, or having a reasonable probability of entering, the groundwater resources of the state, provided sufficient scientifically valid technical information exists to allow the DHS to develop recommendations for standards.

The overview will be presented by Dr. Sarah Yang. Dr. Yang is the Groundwater Toxicologist with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). Her job duties include developing recommendations for groundwater standards, conducting human health risk assessment activities and conducting toxicological surveillance activities relating to health outcomes and chemical exposures. Before starting at DHS in 2017, Sarah was an environmental toxicologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources where she worked on water quality standards related policy development. Sarah holds a Doctoral degree in Molecular and Environmental Toxicology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Drafter: Darsi Foss