



November 17, 2006

RECEIVED

NOV 22 2006  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

Scott Hassett, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

Todd Ambs  
Administrator, Division of Water  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

**Re: Comments on New Berlin's Application for Great Lakes Water**

Dear Secretary Hassett and Mr. Ambs:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comments on New Berlin's application to use Great Lakes water in the Mississippi River Basin. We submit these comments on behalf of the following groups and individuals:

**Milwaukee County Conservation Coalition (MCCC)**

**Waukesha County Environmental Action League (WEAL)**

We have been very concerned by the manner in which this application has been handled by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). For too long, after it was submitted by the City of New Berlin, it appears to have been considered behind closed doors, out of the public eye. In fact, the public was not aware that it had even been filed and that it was sent to the other Great Lakes States, until that fact was disclosed by Michigan. In all respects, this and any other application, for this or any other applicant, should be fully and immediately disclosed to the public. There is no justification whatsoever for dealing with these issues secretly.

We are pleased that the Department is accepting public comments. However, we are formally requesting that public hearings also be held in both Milwaukee and New Berlin. Many of our individual members want the opportunity to both speak publicly about this application and the complex and far-reaching issues it raises, and to have the opportunity to hear what other members of the public have to say.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONSERVATION COALITION

% Milwaukee Environmental Consortium, 1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Members: (partial listing): Coalition on Lake Front Development; Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers; Friends of St. Francis Greenspace; Friends of Seminary Woods; Gathering Waters Conservancy; Glendale Natural Heritage Society; Greendale Environmental Group; Metro Audubon Society; Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy; Milwaukee Audubon Society; Greater Milwaukee Green Party; The Park People; Preserve Our Parks; Wild Ones - Milwaukee Chapters

Along these lines, we also request that all public comments received, including those from the requested hearings, be posted on the Department's web site and made readily available to the public.

We are very concerned that issues arising in Wisconsin, triggered by the City of New Berlin and by the publicly stated intentions of Waukesha, have the potential to derail the entire Great Lakes Compact. The consequences of that happening, both to the resource and economically, are grave. Absent the Compact, it is likely that Congress would make decisions about the water of the Great Lakes. We have no confidence that those decisions would be good for the long-term health of the entire Great Lakes or the economy of Wisconsin.

Our members feel strongly that the WDNR should not consider applications for Great Lakes water diversions until Wisconsin has passed state legislation implementing the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact ("Compact").

Simply put, this application is premature both politically and, arguably, legally. We urge the Department to take no further action until the Compact has been implemented. Approving diversion applications without the unanimous approval of all the Great Lakes governors sets a bad precedent and violates the Federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Considering diversion applications at this time violates the spirit of the Compact.

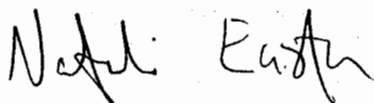
Considering diversion applications now will cause confusion and uncertainty in Wisconsin and across the Great Lake's Basin.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments. We look forward to working with you to protect the Great Lakes for current and future generations.

Sincerely,



Allen Stasiewski  
Acting President  
Waukesha County Environmental Action League



Natalie Easton  
Advocacy Coalition Coordinator  
Milwaukee County Conservation Coalition

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CONSERVATION COALITION

% Milwaukee Environmental Consortium, 1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Members: (partial listing): Coalition on Lake Front Development; Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers; Friends of St. Francis Greenspace; Friends of Seminary Woods; Gathering Waters Conservancy; Glendale Natural Heritage Society; Greendale Environmental Group; Metro Audubon Society; Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy; Milwaukee Audubon Society; Greater Milwaukee Green Party; The Park People; Preserve Our Parks; Wild Ones – Milwaukee Chapters