

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Waukesha comments on new draft of Great Lakes Annex Implementation Agreements

The Waukesha Water Utility is reviewing the new draft of the Great Lakes Annex Implementation Agreements. The water utility will be discussing it with technical experts and people involved in the negotiations to better understand the proposal and the implications of the latest changes.

Waukesha needs a new supply of water, partly because of high levels of radium in its current deep groundwater supply and partly because of the decreasing water level in that water source. As the aquifer continues to decrease, the levels of other contaminants are predicted to also increase.

Regardless of what water source Waukesha ultimately uses, city leaders know it is essential to conserve and protect water resources. For that reason, Waukesha is currently developing a comprehensive water plan to conserve, protect, and improve water resource quantity and quality. Under its plan, the city will:

- Announce a ***water conservation*** plan this fall to reduce water use 20 percent by 2020;
- Review ***planning and zoning*** ordinances to require new developments to have no impact on the natural water cycle;
- Work with Waukesha County and its communities to create a plan to ***protect sources of drinking water from pollution***; and
- Adopt stormwater best management practices to ensure that ***rainfall replenishes the groundwater supplies*** that provide public drinking water and support the environment.

Waukesha is continuing to explore all of its water supply options, including shallow wells, wells to the west and Lake Michigan surface water. Waukesha is one of the few areas in the U.S. or Canada that is within the groundwater basin of the Great Lakes but not the surface water basin. Waukesha's current source of water is Lake Michigan groundwater. However, it is not yet known if the draft annex agreement provides a realistic option for Waukesha to make a case for the use of Lake Michigan surface water instead of Lake Michigan groundwater.