DNR: Waukesha water application complete

Three informational meetings scheduled

By Sarah Pryor Freeman Staff

WAUKESHA – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced Friday that Waukesha's application for Great Lakes water is officially complete, and the DNR can now begin an "extensive" application review process that includes public hearings, according to a news release from the Waukesha Water Utility.

Water Utility Manager Dan Duchniak and the Water Commission have spent years working on the application in order to meet a June 2018 radium compliance deadline.

"It has taken a lot of careful, thorough work to get here," said Water Commission President Dan Warren in the release. "It's another step in the process, but it's a significant one."

As part of the upcoming review, the DNR will hold the first round of informational meetings and public hearings during the last week of July, and the first public comment period is open until Aug. 13, according to the DNR's website.

The meetings will be held July 26 at Waukesha County Technical College, July 27 at Hart Park in Wauwatosa and July 28 at the DNR center in Sturtevant.

Each meeting will follow the same format: a 5:30 p.m. open house with displays, handouts and DNR staff available to answer questions and a 6 p.m. presentation that includes an application overview and question and answer period, followed by a formal public hearing.

According to the DNR's website, any comments are welcome, however comments are particularly requested on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement and the review criteria.

The DNR's review will evaluate the "environmental, public health, sustainability, reliability and financial impacts of the Lake Michigan proposal," and compares them to alternative sources, Duchniak said in the news release.

After the review, the application must be approved by the eight states and two Canadian provinces in the Great Lakes Compact.

For further information, visit http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/Wau keshaDiversionApp.htm.