

Areawide Water Quality Management Planning

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is required to have a continuing water quality management planning process, under [Wis. Stat. 283.83](#). These Areawide Water Quality Management Plans are defined in [NR 121](#) as “a plan for managing, protecting and enhancing groundwater and surface water quality which considers the interrelationship of water quality and land and water resources on an areawide basis.”

One component of areawide water quality management planning, is Urban Service Area (including sewer service area) planning. One purpose of this planning process is to help communities develop cost-effective and environmentally sound wastewater collection and treatment systems. Urban Service Area planning identifies areas most suitable for sewered development as well as Environmental Corridors for environmentally sensitive areas where development would have an adverse impact upon water quality. These plans also identify the best management practices needed to protect groundwater and surface water from the adverse impacts of urbanization, including nonpoint source pollution.

CARPC conducts water quality management planning, including the administration of Water Quality Management Plan amendments, in Dane County under a contractual agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Water Quality Management Plan Amendments

One of the most common amendments to the State's *Dane County Water Quality Management Plan* is a change to the Urban Service Area boundaries.

Plan Amendment Process

1. Urban Service Area Amendment Submittal
 - a. Municipality submits amendment application to CARPC following the checklist in the Service Area Amendment Application Packet.
 - b. CARPC reviews the application for completeness and requests additional information if necessary.
2. Urban Service Area Amendment Review
 - a. CARPC prepares a staff analysis on the proposed amendment
 - b. CARPC holds a public hearing for consideration of the amendment
 - c. CARPC makes a recommendation to DNR on amendment of the State's *Dane County Water Quality Management Plan*.
3. DNR Administrative Decision
 - a. DNR reviews the recommendation and materials provided by CARPC and issues an administrative decision on the proposed amendment within 90 days, based on conformance with state water quality standards under [Wis. Stat. 281.15](#)

This is a general overview of the WQM Plan amendment process for changing Urban Service Area boundaries as established in [Wis. Stat. 283.83\(1m\)](#). Contact CARPC staff with any questions or requests for additional information.