



## **Wisconsin Scary Water Fact Sheet 2015**

- 1. In 2012, Wisconsin Rapids had the worst reproductive toxin pollution in a single watershed in the entire country.<sup>1</sup>**
- 2. Over a million gallons of manure spilled into Wisconsin's waterways in 2013.<sup>2</sup>**
- 3. In 2014, Door County was home to a 640,000-gallon manure spill into Sugar Creek, a small local waterway.<sup>3</sup>**
- 4. Swimming in many of WI beaches exposes you to E. Coli. In 2015, 15% of water samples from WI's beaches exceeded daily bacterial maximums.<sup>4</sup>**
- 5. Green Bay suffers from toxic algal blooms and "dead zones" from phosphorous pollution.<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Jeff Inglis, Tony Dutzik, and John Rumpler, "Wasting Our Waterways: Toxic Industrial Pollution and Restoring the Promise of the Clean Water Act" (Environment America Research & Policy Center, June 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Ridlington and Dan Kohler, "Wisconsin's Lakes at Risk: The Growing Threat of Pollution from Agriculture and Development" (Wisconsin Environment Research & Policy Center, March 2011)

<sup>3</sup> "Factory Farm Nation 2015" (Food and Water Watch, 2015)

<sup>4</sup> Mark Dorfman and Angela Haren, "Testing the Waters" (Natural Resource Defense Council, 2015.).

<sup>5</sup> "Pollutants Likely to Create Green Bay's Longest Dead Zone," accessed October 28, 2015, <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/pollutants-likely-to-create-longest-dead-zone-yet-in-green-bay-b99473535z1-298367521.html>.

6. **Statewide, nitrate levels exceed state and federal standards in 10% of the private wells sampled. In the Trempealeau County area, nitrate-nitrogen exceeded the drinking water standard in all thirteen wells sampled.** <sup>6</sup>
7. **Many counties, including Dane County's waters are threatened by tar sands pipeline spills.** <sup>7</sup>
8. **Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources has repeatedly failed to enforce the Clean Water Act, the foundational legislation that protects our lakes and rivers.** <sup>8</sup>
9. **Over half of Wisconsin's stream miles are once again left vulnerable to pollution due to a federal court of appeal's ruling to disband the EPA's new Clean Water Rule.** <sup>9,10, 11, 12,</sup>
10. **The same loopholes in the Clean Water Act leave the drinking water for nearly 1 in 14 Wisconsinites vulnerable to pollution.** <sup>9, 10, 11, 12, 13</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> "Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection: Water Quality," accessed October 28, 2015, [http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Water\\_Quality/ACM\\_Annual\\_Report/2013\\_Annual\\_Report/Water\\_Quality/](http://datcp.wi.gov/Environment/Water_Quality/ACM_Annual_Report/2013_Annual_Report/Water_Quality/).

<sup>7</sup> "Tar Sands," *350 MADISON*, accessed October 16, 2015, <https://350madison.wordpress.com/campaigns/tar-sands-2/>.

<sup>8</sup> Midwest Environmental Advocates <http://midwestadvocates.org/news-events/news/petition-to-epa-wisconsin-fails-to-comply-with-clean-water-act/>

<sup>9</sup> Environment America <http://www.environmentamerica.org/news/ame/court-ruling-puts-thousands-wetlands-and-streams-jeopardy>

<sup>10</sup> "Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule: Protect Wisconsin's Drinking Water" [protectcleanwater.org](http://protectcleanwater.org)

<sup>11</sup> U. *Appendix A-1. Total Miles of Rivers and Streams in the Nation* (n.d.): n. pag. US EPA. Web. <[http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/cwa/305b/upload/2000\\_06\\_28\\_305b\\_98report\\_appenda.pdf](http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/cwa/305b/upload/2000_06_28_305b_98report_appenda.pdf)>.

<sup>12</sup> *Table 1: State-by-State NHD Analyses of Stream Categories and Drinking Water Data* (n.d.): n. pag. Association of State Wetland Managers. Web. <[http://www.aswm.org/pdf\\_lib/state\\_data\\_request.pdf](http://www.aswm.org/pdf_lib/state_data_request.pdf)>.

<sup>13</sup> *Percentage of Surface Drinking Water from Intermittent, Ephemeral, and Headwater Streams in Wisconsin*. US EPA, n.d. Web.