



How the process works, as dictated by state law.

State agencies identify substances, related to their authority, that are detected in or have a reasonable probability of entering Wisconsin's groundwater. They submit these to DNR.



DNR designates substances as either of public health concern or public welfare concern. DNR categorizes and ranks the substances following Wisconsin state law.



DNR submits the current list of substances of public health concern to DHS. **DHS reviews the substances and recommends enforcement standards to DNR.**



DNR proposes rules to establish the DHS recommendations for substances of public health concern and at the same time substances identified for public welfare concern.

Here's what DHS' three-step process looks like!

1 Review literature and available scientific information

About 60% of the process

- This process takes an extensive amount of time because we need to clearly understand the science behind each substance.
- This part can vary in how long it takes based on how many substances are being requested for review, how much research has been conducted and published on the substances and if we are assessing substances in groups to determine if a combined standard is appropriate.
- We review specific concentrations set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other health-based guidelines created by other federal and international organizations.
- We gather all available data, which can mean hundreds of scientific journal articles, to fully understand the measured effect of the substance on growth, development, reproduction, disease, cancer, or other negative health effects.
- We assess and analyze these articles to see if there is any significant technical information that was not included when the federal numbers were set.

2 Select appropriate science-based standards

About 20% of the process

- [Wisconsin state law](#) provides the process for selecting the appropriate standard, including the scientific process to use if a federal number or state drinking water standard is not available.
- We must use the most recent federal number unless there is significant technical and scientifically valid information that was not considered when the federal number was set.

3 Write documents explaining findings and recommendations for each substance

About 20% of the process

- Our support documents describe why we recommended each standard and aid the DNR in their rule-making process.
- We provide the overall health effects each substance can cause, how people come in contact with the substances, and a detailed summary of the results of our scientific research.

Want to learn more?

DHS' webpage provides summaries on each substance.

www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm

DNR's rule-making webpage includes additional information and our recommendations to DNR.

dnr.wi.gov/topic/Groundwater/NR140.html

See [Wis. Stat. ch. 160](#) for the specific state law.