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DATE: September 23, 2015

TO: Patrick Fuller, Assembly Chief Clerk
Jeff Renk, Senate Chief Clerk

FROM: Ray Cross 

RE: Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act 2014-15 Report

The attached document reflects the significant Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) activities of the University of Wisconsin System for the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. This annual report fulfills Section 1.11 (2)(j) of the Wisconsin Statutes, in that it provides information on the number of Type I Environmental Impact Statements and Type II Environmental Impact Assessments completed during the past fiscal year.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please direct them to Alexandria Roe, University of Wisconsin System Associate Vice President, at (608) 265-0551.

Enclosure

CC: Alexandria Roe

WEPA REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Submitted by
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

This report covers the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) activities of the University of Wisconsin System campuses for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This is pursuant to sec. 1.11 (2)(j), Wisconsin Statutes, which states:

"Annually, no later than September 15, submit a report to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), including the number of proposed actions for which the agency conducted an assessment of whether an impact statement was required under par. (c) and the number of impact statements prepared under par. (c)."

In accordance with WEPA and the regulations of the Federal Council on Environmental Quality, the UW System developed a WEPA Project Type Action List which was approved by the Board of Regents and serves as a guide to classify projects in one of the following three categories:

- (a) Type I actions require a detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and involve projects that typically relate to major development projects or building additions on undeveloped parcels, projects that are highly controversial, and/or projects that could significantly impact air/water quality, transportation/circulation, housing, land use, or other environmental aspects. A 45-day public comment period is typically provided to review the draft EIS, and a 30-day public comment is given to review the proposed final EIS. In addition, three public meetings are held to provide opportunities for input from interested state agencies, municipalities, nearby residents, students, faculty, staff, and the general public.
- (b) Type II actions are evaluated using an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to identify the potential environmental impacts and determine whether or not an EIS is necessary. Type II actions involve new construction, facility replacement, demolition, flood plain control, exterior development, etc. A 15-day public comment period is provided and, generally, a public meeting is held before the EIA is finalized.
- (c) Type III actions identify those projects that do not have any significant environmental impact and, therefore, do not require an environmental impact assessment or statement. The majority of projects fall into this category, particularly small projects (under \$185,000) and All Agency projects that primarily involve interior remodeling, maintenance, and utilities.

In screening the projects, the existing environment and proposed environmental changes are considered, including the physical, biological, social, economic, cultural and historical aspects. Based on the foregoing, the following Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Impact Assessments were completed this past fiscal year:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

UW-La Crosse	Gymnastics and Storage Building
UW-La Crosse	Science Labs Building
UW-Madison	Music Performance Building
UW-Stevens Point	Chemistry Biology Building

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

UW-Stevens Point	Parking Lot Y Construction
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The preceding tables show that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed for four projects, and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed for one project this past fiscal year. There were no outstanding issues on the EISs; in each case, a Record of Decision was issued that enables those projects to proceed as planned. The EIA for the remaining project led to a determination that the project would not have a significant detrimental effect on the quality of the environment. Accordingly, that project received a Finding of No Significant Impact and, as a result, an Environmental Impact Statement was not necessary.

The EIS and EIA investigations that are presently underway will be included in the next fiscal year's report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ACTIONS REPORT
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM**

July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015

University	EIS Type I	EIA Type II
UW-Eau Claire	--	--
UW-Green Bay	--	--
UW-La Crosse	2	--
UW-Madison	1	--
UW-Milwaukee	--	--
UW-Oshkosh	--	--
UW-Parkside	--	--
UW-Platteville	--	--
UW-River Falls	--	--
UW-Stevens Point	1	1
UW-Stout	--	--
UW-Superior	--	--
UW-Whitewater	--	--
UW-Extension	--	--
UW Colleges	--	--
UW System	--	--
TOTAL	4	1