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Facts and Information on New Berlin and Lake Michigan Water

1. New Berlin is in a unique position that only a few Wisconsin communities share, a portion of the City is outside the Lake Michigan basin but water from these areas is returned to the basin via the sanitary sewer system. Others in this position include the Kenosha area in Kenosha and Bristol, and Menomonee Falls.
2. New Berlin is even more challenged in that it is under DNR orders to comply with radium standards. Right now they are barely getting by, by running only shallow wells, and can not go on indefinitely.
3. The east 1/3 of New Berlin, which lies in the Great Lakes Basin, already has Milwaukee water and MMSD sewer service.
4. The next 1/3 of New Berlin has MMSD sewer service but groundwater is used as a water source. The groundwater is very hard and contains radium.
5. Treating the water for radium will result in a capital cost of up to \$4 million and additional operation and maintenance costs of over \$2 million during the 20 year life of the plant.
6. The aquifer is also depleting rapidly and after this money is spent, New Berlin will have to look elsewhere, probably to the lake, in the future.
7. Milwaukee and New Berlin attorneys agree with previous DNR decisions in Kenosha and Menomonee Falls that a withdrawal of water from the basin without a water loss is allowable under current rules.
8. Everyone agrees that under proposed rules New Berlin is a "straddling community" and the state would have approval authority.
9. Using the lake water and returning it in this manner will result in a more "natural" water flow. Now, we are diverting an "approved" half billion to a billion gallons a year from the Mississippi basin to the Lake Michigan basin, in conflict with current state statutes and code. This would be minimized under our proposal.
10. There are no places in New Berlin outside the planned MMSD service area that would be provided lake water under this proposal, either in New Berlin or other local communities.

11. Lake water is roughly 1/2 the hardness of groundwater in the area and does not require water softening. Literally thousands of tons of salt that now go to the lake from water softeners will be eliminated as will the wasted water from regenerating the softeners.
12. New Berlin has done it's homework and this is the best option from an environmental, short-term capital, and long term O&M point of view. All other options have been reviewed repeatedly since 1999.
13. Milwaukee has indicated they need the okay from DNR before negotiations can begin for a contract amendment. We are waiting for DNR but time is running out.
14. More water is returned to the lake basin than is withdrawn currently and under the proposed plan.

