

of the work, there are times when we need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination – and PPE – highly important to the job. Mission essential workers in treatment plants often work in open floor plan environments and the work requires frequent consultation and physical work between employees. Some work activities also require these employees to be in the community conducting field work, often in teams, which increases their potential exposure to the virus. If we are exposed or contract COVID-19 this could very well leave our town without a qualified operator to maintain our water/wastewater system.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the SDMAC committee recognize and prioritize these extremely essential workers during **Phase 1b** of the Vaccination Plan. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Chris Liveris

Utility Manager  
City of Ripon  
560 Aspen Street  
Ripon, Wisconsin 54971  
920-748-4912 - Office  
920-748-2882 - Fax

**From:** [Brian Rhodes](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee Comments - Hartford Electric and Water Utility  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:34:35 PM  
**Attachments:** 20210114193159551.pdf

---

To the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee -  
Please see attached letter.  
Thank you.

Brian Rhodes  
Utility Director  
Hartford Utilities  
620 W Sumner St  
Hartford, WI 53027  
Office: 262-670-3710  
Fax: 262-673-8307  
[www.hartfordutilities.org](http://www.hartfordutilities.org)

Hartford Utilities recently changed our email domain to @hartfordutilities.org.  
Please note my new email address is **brhodes@hartfordutilities.org**.



January 14, 2021

Dear Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee,

I appreciate the complexity of the decisions surrounding COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and recognize the efforts of the Subcommittee to ensure an equitable distribution. I submit these comments to advocate for adding municipal utility employees to Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution rollout.

The Hartford Electric and Water Utility provides critical electric, water and wastewater services to our community. As essential frontline utility workers, we are highly specialized, provide necessary services and must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We are not able to work from home and have gone to extreme lengths to keep employees safe and ensure continuity of the critical services we provide the community. However, our daily exposure to customers and the nature of our duties - which often requires that we work in teams - makes vaccination highly important to maintain the utility system.

Exposure to the virus by our essential workers could be catastrophic, as it has the potential to disrupt community services such as electricity, water, and wastewater. This could affect spaces such as homes, schools, daycare facilities, manufacturing companies, restaurants, grocery stores, medical clinics and government facilities. I would like to highlight the fact that this list potentially includes facilities that distribute the vaccine and keep it at the low temperature necessary for safe storage.

We respectfully request that municipal electric, water, and wastewater workers be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b.

Your consideration of this urgent request is appreciated. Thank you for the time and effort you are spending to ensure Wisconsin is well prepared to vaccinate efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,

Brian Rhodes  
Director of Utilities

**From:** [Andrea Timmerman](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee- Phase 1B  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 7:05:47 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I ask that you consider in your plan for Phase 1B vaccine administration **public works employees**. These employees have been essential employees that are necessary for assisting in the health and safety of the community.

to assure its safety, and respond to various other situations in regards to maintenance of infrastructure.

They are often working in close proximity to their colleagues with physical labor and equipment availability. They also have to work with other contractors and businesses in the community.

It would be impossible to replace these trained individuals in an instant if they were to all become exposed to a positive covid case, or positive themselves, and need to quarantine, isolate, or become too ill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Timmerman  
Lancaster, WI  
(608)732-6772

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Mike Reynolds](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Cc:** [Joseph Owen](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee Comments - Boscobel Utilities  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 4:19:42 PM  
**Attachments:** 2021 Phase 1B Vaccine Support Letter.doc

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Attached are Boscobel Utilities' Subject comments for Subcommittee review and consideration, with your help we can continue to protect this vital infrastructure that keeps everything else in operation.

Michael B. Reynolds, P.E.  
City Engineer/Director of Public Works  
City of Boscobel  
1006 Wisconsin Avenue  
Boscobel, WI 53805  
(608)375-5030  
[mreynolds@wppienergy.org](mailto:mreynolds@wppienergy.org)



**BOSCOBEL UTILITIES**  
*People you know. Service you trust.*

**1006 WISCONSIN AVENUE  
BOSCOBEL, WI 53805**

**BUSINESS OFFICE: (608) 375-5002  
Fax: (608) 375-4750  
[www.boscobelutilities.com](http://www.boscobelutilities.com)**

Dear Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee,

I appreciate the complexity of the decisions surrounding COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and recognize the efforts of the Subcommittee to ensure an equitable distribution. I submit these comments to advocate for adding municipal utility employees to Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution rollout.

Boscobel Utilities provides critical electric, water and wastewater services to our community. As essential frontline utility workers, we are highly specialized, provide necessary services and must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We are not able to work from home and have gone to extreme lengths to keep employees safe and ensure continuity of the critical services we provide the community. However, our daily exposure to customers and the nature of our duties - which often requires that we work in teams - makes vaccination highly important to maintain the utility system.

Exposure to the virus by our essential workers could be catastrophic, as it has the potential to disrupt community services such as electricity, water, and wastewater. This could affect spaces such as homes, schools, daycare facilities, manufacturing companies, restaurants, grocery stores, medical clinics and government facilities. I would like to highlight the fact that this list potentially includes facilities that distribute the vaccine and keep it at the low temperature necessary for safe storage.

We respectfully request that municipal electric, water, and wastewater workers be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b.

Your consideration of this urgent request is appreciated. Thank you for the time and effort you are spending to ensure Wisconsin is well prepared to vaccinate efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Reynolds, PE  
City Engineer/Director of Public Works

**Michael Reynolds, City Engineer/DPW**

**1006 Wisconsin Avenue, Boscobel, WI 53805-1532**

♦ 608-375-5030 ♦ Fax 608-375-4750 ♦ [mreynolds@wppienergy.org](mailto:mreynolds@wppienergy.org) ♦ [www.boscobelwisconsin.com](http://www.boscobelwisconsin.com)

**From:** [Brian Carroll](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Cc:** [Cardona, Mary - MEUW](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Action Requested: Vaccine Distribution  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:46:41 PM

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Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

The line crews and other employees working in Wisconsin's electric utilities have kept the lights on across our state throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. That includes the employees of Gresham Utilities, one of Wisconsin's 81 municipally owned utilities.

We respectfully ask that, as the final recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B are developed, the mission-essential frontline electric utility workers be prioritized along with other first responders, such as firefighters and police officers. (Currently, utility workers, although not explicitly mentioned, appear to be included among "essential workers" in later priority group phases).

The pandemic has directly impacted the way our utility performs critical work. From the outset, we have taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 among our employees. For example, many of our electric utility employees are using staggered shifts or smaller teams of mission-essential workers. However, due to the nature of the work and essential training, there are times when these employees need to be near each other, making vaccination highly important to the job. Some work activities also require electric employees to be in the community conducting field work, which also increases their potential exposure to the virus.

Utility workers are critical to not only the state's economy but also in supporting the healthcare sector's life-saving treatments, keeping people connected as they continue to socially distance and work from home, and more. Mission-essential workers are a subset of our workforce and are responsible for the fundamental processes and facilities that keep the lights on and energy flowing. These employees are highly specialized and do not have the option to work from home or in isolation from others on the job site.

Gresham Utilities and all of Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities are committed to serving our communities. We respectfully ask that our employees be given priority for the vaccine to continue delivering the critical services our customers rely on. Thank you for considering our input and for your work in planning for a smooth and effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

Brian Carroll  
Operations Manager  
Gresham Utilities

**From:** [Randy Jaeckels](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee Comments - New Holstein Utilities  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:31:53 PM  
**Attachments:** SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee Letter.pdf

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Please see the attachment. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Randy Jaeckels  
General Manager  
New Holstein Utilities  
920-898-5776



January 14, 2021

Dear Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee,

For almost a year, society has been battling the coronavirus outbreak daily. Through the efforts of dedicated people, research on the coronavirus has been conducted and vaccines have been developed. Now, our government leaders are being charged with the task of prioritizing the distribution of the vaccines. Those in most need of the vaccine, the healthcare professionals and elderly, have received or will soon be receiving vaccinations. The responsibility now turns to determining the priority for the next rounds of vaccinations.

I appreciate the complexity of the decisions surrounding COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and recognize the efforts of the Subcommittee to ensure an equitable distribution. I respectfully submit these comments to advocate for adding municipal utility employees to Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution rollout.

New Holstein Utilities provides critical electric, water, and wastewater services to our community. As essential frontline utility workers, we are highly specialized, provide necessary services and must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure these utility services are provided to healthcare facilities, grocery stores, manufacturing facilities, schools and other critical customers in our community.

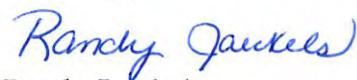
Our field staff are not able to work from home as much of their work is hands-on. New Holstein Utilities has gone to extreme lengths to keep employees safe and ensure continuity of the critical services we provide the community. However, our daily exposure to customers and the nature of our duties - which often requires that we work in teams and within close proximity to one another - makes vaccination highly important to maintain the utility system.

Exposure to the virus by a high percentage of our essential workers could be catastrophic, as it has the potential to disrupt community services such as electricity, water, and wastewater. This could negatively impact our key customers (as noted above) as well as homes. I would like to highlight the fact that this list potentially includes facilities that distribute the vaccine and keep it at the low temperature necessary for safe storage.

We respectfully request that municipal electric, water, and wastewater workers be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b.

Your consideration of this urgent request is appreciated. Thank you for the time and effort you are spending to ensure Wisconsin is well prepared to vaccinate efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Jaeckels".

Randy Jaeckels  
General Manager

**From:** [George Morrissey](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee- Cuba City  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:30:46 PM  
**Attachments:** cubacity@wppienergy.org\_20210114\_141850.pdf

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Good Afternoon,  
Please see attached.  
Thanks,

George Morrissey  
Director of Public Works  
108 N Main Street  
Cuba City, WI 53807  
608-744-2152  
608-744-2151 (fax)  
[gmorrissey@wppienergy.org](mailto:gmorrissey@wppienergy.org)  
Cuba City Website: [http://secure-web.cisco.com/1OXh1dl6NPtevQ8OBUEk4HLichbEzlrZXpHKBfwkj2VE1dwKTE5NP3dbISXrvBgUMcgLaf8xeWWW5uTiRnvU-GhxAhTAGIJH0iTdzbgHgaPSw8mHvLxGb0CqoYtJBkDWmcoZoyavEaznvrSyCTvA9o7IK\\_NarPBEi6QSmaAyT3eQJTlySmCD-UUi-Ymc92i1ftvYdg8MA95kPh8kGMlyKQdy3uc-hjwxewp9Hc9Z0OGcKMAXIg7aISJFOmaCUrX11WfuKVSEIJZvjqFxnK2EtLQBoCL6O7MrboP9tPgpu1wCj\\_6WwDMWlJaQ9xR-sJMEbTrlwODiT0PBgLz3-ON\\_xmg/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cubacity.org](http://secure-web.cisco.com/1OXh1dl6NPtevQ8OBUEk4HLichbEzlrZXpHKBfwkj2VE1dwKTE5NP3dbISXrvBgUMcgLaf8xeWWW5uTiRnvU-GhxAhTAGIJH0iTdzbgHgaPSw8mHvLxGb0CqoYtJBkDWmcoZoyavEaznvrSyCTvA9o7IK_NarPBEi6QSmaAyT3eQJTlySmCD-UUi-Ymc92i1ftvYdg8MA95kPh8kGMlyKQdy3uc-hjwxewp9Hc9Z0OGcKMAXIg7aISJFOmaCUrX11WfuKVSEIJZvjqFxnK2EtLQBoCL6O7MrboP9tPgpu1wCj_6WwDMWlJaQ9xR-sJMEbTrlwODiT0PBgLz3-ON_xmg/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cubacity.org)

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-----Original Message-----

From: cubacity@wppienergy.org [<mailto:cubacity@wppienergy.org>] On Behalf Of cubacity@  
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:19 PM  
To: George Morrissey  
Subject: Scanned image from MBP MX-M283N DEMO

Reply to: cubacity@wppienergy.org <cubacity@wppienergy.org> Device Name: City of Cuba City Device Model: MX-M363N  
Location: City Hall

File Format: PDF MMR(G4)  
Resolution: 200dpi x 200dpi

Attached file is scanned image in PDF format.  
Use Acrobat(R)Reader(R) or Adobe(R)Reader(R) of Adobe Systems Incorporated to view the document.  
Adobe(R)Reader(R) can be downloaded from the following URL:  
Adobe, the Adobe logo, Acrobat, the Adobe PDF logo, and Reader are registered trademarks or trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and other countries.

<http://www.adobe.com/>

Dear Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee,

I appreciate the complexity of the decisions surrounding COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and recognize the efforts of the Subcommittee to ensure an equitable distribution. I submit these comments to advocate for adding municipal utility employees to Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution rollout.

Cuba City provides critical electric, water and wastewater services to our community. As essential frontline utility workers, we are highly specialized, provide necessary services and must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We are not able to work from home and have gone to extreme lengths to keep employees safe and ensure continuity of the critical services we provide the community. However, our daily exposure to customers and the nature of our duties - which often requires that we work in teams - makes vaccination highly important to maintain the utility system.

Exposure to the virus by our essential workers could be catastrophic, as it has the potential to disrupt community services such as electricity, water, and wastewater. This could affect spaces such as homes, schools, daycare facilities, manufacturing companies, restaurants, grocery stores, medical clinics and government facilities. I would like to highlight the fact that this list potentially includes facilities that distribute the vaccine and keep it at the low temperature necessary for safe storage.

We respectfully request that municipal electric, water, and wastewater workers be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b.

Your consideration of this urgent request is appreciated. Thank you for the time and effort you are spending to ensure Wisconsin is well prepared to vaccinate efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,



George Morrissey

**From:** [Dale Lythjohan](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee Comments – City of Cedarburg Light & Water Utility  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 2:27:33 PM  
**Attachments:** Covid Vaccine Letter.doc

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Please see attached letter urging the State of Wisconsin to include municipal utility workers in group 1b...

Thank you

**Dale Lythjohan | General Manager**

Cedarburg Light & Water Utility | N30 W5926 Lincoln Blvd, PO Box 767, Cedarburg, WI 53012-0767  
(262) 375-7650 office [dlythjohan@cedarburglightandwater.org](mailto:dlythjohan@cedarburglightandwater.org)



PEOPLE YOU KNOW. SERVICE YOU TRUST.

N30 W5926 Lincoln Blvd., P.O. Box 767  
Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012-0767  
Phone: (262) 375-7650  
E-Mail: [cedarburgutility@wppienergy.org](mailto:cedarburgutility@wppienergy.org)  
Website: [cedarburglightandwater.com](http://cedarburglightandwater.com)

January 14, 2021

Sent via email

I appreciate the complexity of the decisions surrounding COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and recognize the efforts of the Subcommittee to ensure an equitable distribution. I submit these comments to advocate for adding municipal utility employees to Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution rollout.

Cedarburg Light & Water Utility provides critical electric and water services to our community. As essential frontline utility workers, we are highly specialized, provide necessary services and must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**We are not able to work from home** and have gone to extreme lengths to keep employees safe and ensure continuity of the critical services we provide the community. However, our daily exposure to customers and the nature of our duties - which often requires that we work in teams - makes vaccination highly important to maintain the utility system.

Exposure to the virus by our essential workers could be catastrophic, as it has the potential to disrupt community services such as electricity, water, and wastewater. This could affect spaces such as homes, schools, daycare facilities, manufacturing companies, restaurants, grocery stores, medical clinics and government facilities. I would like to highlight the fact that this list potentially includes facilities that distribute the vaccine and keep it at the low temperature necessary for safe storage.

We respectfully request that municipal electric, water, and wastewater workers be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b.

Your consideration of this urgent request is appreciated. Thank you for the time and effort you are spending to ensure Wisconsin is well prepared to vaccinate efficiently and effectively.

Respectfully,

Cedarburg Light & Water Utility

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale A. Lythjohan", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dale A. Lythjohan  
General Manager  
[dlythjohan@cedarburglightandwater.org](mailto:dlythjohan@cedarburglightandwater.org)



**From:** [Patrick Reilley](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:41:07 PM

---

Pat Reilley  
Utility Manager  
Village Of Bangor  
[preilley@villageofbangor.com](mailto:preilley@villageofbangor.com)  
608-486-2151 ext. 2

---

**From:** Patrick Reilley  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** 'DHSSDMAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov.'  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1B

Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

The line crews and other employees working in Wisconsin's electric utilities have kept the lights on across our state throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. That includes the employees of Bangor Municipal Electric Utility, one of Wisconsin's 81 municipally-owned utilities.

We respectfully ask that, as the final recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B are developed, the mission-essential frontline electric utility workers be prioritized along with other first responders, such as firefighters and police officers. (Currently, utility workers, although not explicitly mentioned, appear to be included among "essential workers" in later priority group phases).

The pandemic has directly impacted the way our utility performs critical work. From the outset, we have taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 among our employees. For example, many of our electric utility employees are using staggered shifts or smaller teams of mission-essential workers. However, due to the nature of the work and essential training, there are times when these employees need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination highly important to the job. Some work activities also require electric employees to be in the community conducting field work, which also increases their potential exposure to the virus.

Utility workers are critical to not only the state's economy but also in supporting the healthcare sector's life-saving treatments, keeping people connected as they continue to socially distance and work from home, and more. Mission-essential workers are a subset of our workforce and are responsible for the fundamental processes and facilities that keep the lights on and energy flowing. These employees are highly specialized and do not have the option to work from home or in isolation from others on the job site.

Bangor Municipal Electric Utility and all of Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities are committed to serving our communities. We respectfully ask that our employees be given priority for the vaccine in order to continue delivering the critical services our customers rely

on. Thank you for considering our input and for your work in planning for a smooth and effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

Patrick Reilley  
Electric Utility Manager  
Bangor Municipal Electric Utility

Pat Reilley  
Utility Manager  
Village Of Bangor  
[preilley@villageofbangor.com](mailto:preilley@villageofbangor.com)  
608-486-2151 ext. 2



**From:** [Brian Knapp](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Cc:** [Cardona, Mary - MEUW](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee - Phase 1B Comments  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:19:06 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image002.png

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To Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

The Electric Line-workers and other employees working in Wisconsin's electric utilities have kept the lights on across our state throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. That includes the employees of Shawano Municipal Utilities, one of Wisconsin's 81 municipally-owned utilities.

We respectfully ask that, as the final recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B are developed, the mission-essential frontline electric utility workers be prioritized along with other first responders, such as firefighters and police officers. (Currently, utility workers, although not explicitly mentioned, appear to be included among "essential workers" in later priority group phases).

Utility workers are critical to not only the state's economy but also to support the healthcare sector's life-saving treatments and keeping people connected as they continue to socially distance and work from home. Mission-essential workers are a subset of our workforce and are responsible for the fundamental processes and facilities that keep energy flowing and the lights on. These employees are highly specialized and do not have the option to work from home or in isolation from others on the job site. Having any of them unable to work due to active COVID infection or "long-hauler" impairments, significantly constrains our ability to maintain and restore electric service.

Shawano Municipal Utilities and all of Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities are committed to serving our communities. We respectfully ask that our mission-essential employees be included in Group 1B priority for the vaccine, in order to protect the people providing the critical services our customers rely on. Thank you for considering my input and for your work in planning for a smooth and effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

**Brian Knapp**

Utility General Manager

Shawano Municipal Utilities & Badger Power Marketing Authority

122 N. Sawyer Street

P.O. Box 436  
Shawano, WI 54166

SMU Office: 715-526-3132 x8980  
Cell: 715-853-9303

[bkappa@cityofshawano.com](mailto:bkappa@cityofshawano.com)



**From:** [Leo Diehl](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#); [Sen.Bewley@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Sen.Bewley@legis.wi.gov); [Rep.Armstrong@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Armstrong@legis.wisconsin.gov)  
**Cc:** [Sue Dietz](#); [Cardona, Mary - MEUW](#)  
**Subject:** "Vaccine Subcommittee" / "Phase 1B for Essential Employees"  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 1:17:24 PM

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## Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

The line crews and other support employees working in Wisconsin's electric utilities have kept the lights on across our state throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. That includes the employees of Rice Lake Utilities, one of Wisconsin's 81 municipally-owned electric utilities; 575 drinking water utilities and over 600 sewer / wastewater utilities.

We respectfully ask that, as the final recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B are developed, the mission-essential frontline electric utility workers, water and wastewater utility workers be prioritized along with other first responders, such as firefighters and police officers. (Currently, utility workers, although not explicitly mentioned, appear to be included among "essential workers" in later priority group phases).

The pandemic has directly impacted the way our utility performs critical work. From the outset, we have taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 among our employees. For example, many of our electric utility employees are using staggered shifts or smaller teams of mission-essential workers. However, due to the nature of the work and essential training, there are times when these employees need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination highly important to the job. Some work activities also require all three classes of employees to be in the community conducting field work, which also increases their potential exposure to the virus.

Utility workers are critical to not only the state's economy but also in supporting the healthcare sector's life-saving treatments, keeping people connected as they continue to socially distance and work from home, and more. Providing safe drinking water to Medical facilities to treat patients of course removing the waste streams and avoiding back ups into homes and businesses! Mission-essential workers are a subset of our workforce and are responsible for the fundamental processes and facilities that keep the lights on and energy flowing. These employees are highly specialized and do not have the option to work from home or in isolation from others on the job site.

Rice Lake Utilities and our 22 employees and all of Wisconsin's municipal electric, water and wastewater / sewer utilities are committed to serving our communities. We respectfully ask that our employees be given priority for the vaccine in order to continue delivering the critical services our customers rely on and need. Thank you for considering our input and for your work in planning for a smooth and effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

Leo J Diehl

General Manager / C.E.O.  
Rice Lake Utilities  
320 W. Coleman Street  
Rice Lake, WI 54868  
(715) 234-7004 Office  
(715) 651-0308 Mobile  
(715) 236-7934 Fax  
[leod@ricelakeutilities.com](mailto:leod@ricelakeutilities.com)

*"The man on top of the mountain didn't fall there." Vince Lombardi*  
***Success is having done the most good only you could do while becoming the 'you' that you were created to be.***

**From:** [Tim Putz](#)  
**Cc:** [Cardona, Mary - MEUW](#); [Tim Putz](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee and Phase 1B  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:51:31 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image003.png

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Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

The line crews and other employees working in Wisconsin's electric utilities have kept the lights on across our state throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. That includes the employees of **Arcadia Electric Utility**, one of Wisconsin's 81 municipally-owned utilities.

We respectfully ask that, as the final recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B are developed, the mission-essential frontline electric utility workers be prioritized along with other first responders, such as firefighters and police officers. (Currently, utility workers, although not explicitly mentioned, appear to be included among "essential workers" in later priority group phases).

The pandemic has directly impacted the way our utility performs critical work. From the outset, we have taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 among our employees. For example, we have split our electric utility employees into smaller teams along with reporting and working out of four different buildings. However, due to the nature of the work and essential training, there are times when these employees need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination highly important to the job. Some work activities also require electric employees to be in the community conducting field work, such as responding to fires and outages which also increases their potential exposure to the virus.

Utility workers are critical to not only the state's economy but also in supporting the healthcare sector's life-saving treatments, keeping people connected as they continue to socially distance and work from home, and more. Mission-essential workers are a subset of our workforce and are responsible for the fundamental processes and facilities that keep the lights on and energy flowing. These employees are highly specialized and do not have the option to work from home or in isolation from others on the job site. As they say, when the lights go out, so do we. ITS OUR JOB. HELP US TO KEEP DOING IT.

**Arcadia Electric Utility** and all of Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities are committed to serving our communities. We respectfully ask that our employees be given priority for the vaccine in order to continue delivering the critical services our customers rely on. Thank you for considering our input and for your work in planning for a smooth and effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

**Tim Putz**

Superintendent  
Arcadia Electric Utility  
115 S. Jackson Street  
Arcadia, WI 54612

(P) 608-323-7347 (C) 608-863-0787

(E) [electricsupt@cityofarcadiawi.com](mailto:electricsupt@cityofarcadiawi.com)



**ARCADIA  
ELECTRIC UTILITY**  
*City of Arcadia*



**From:** [Casey Engebretson](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee Comments - Black River Falls Municipal Utilities  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:44:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Vaccine Subcommittee Comments BRFMU.pdf

---

Dear Vaccine Subcommittee Members,

Please see the attached comments from Black River Falls Municipal Utilities.

Thank you,

**Casey Engebretson**  
General Manager



119 North Water Street  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
[cegebretson@wppienergy.org](mailto:cegebretson@wppienergy.org)  
Utility Office - (715) 284-9463  
FAX - (715) 284-2232

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# Black River Falls municipal utilities

January 14, 2021

Dear Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee,

I appreciate the complexity of the decisions surrounding COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and recognize the efforts of the Subcommittee to ensure an equitable distribution. I submit these comments to advocate for adding municipal utility employees to Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution rollout.

Black River Falls Municipal Utilities provides critical electric, water, and wastewater services to our community. As essential frontline utility workers, we are highly specialized, provide necessary services and must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

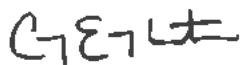
We are not able to work from home and have gone to extreme lengths to keep employees safe and ensure continuity of the critical services we provide the community. However, our daily exposure to customers and the nature of our duties - which often requires that we work in teams - makes vaccination highly important to maintain the utility system.

Exposure to the virus by our essential workers could be catastrophic, as it has the potential to disrupt community services such as electricity, water, and wastewater. This could affect spaces such as homes, schools, daycare facilities, manufacturing companies, restaurants, grocery stores, medical clinics and government facilities. I would like to highlight the fact that this list potentially includes facilities that distribute the vaccine and keep it at the low temperature necessary for safe storage.

We respectfully request that municipal electric, water, and wastewater workers be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b.

Your consideration of this urgent request is appreciated. Thank you for the time and effort you are spending to ensure Wisconsin is well prepared to vaccinate efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,



Casey Engebretson  
General Manager



**From:** [Greg Kuhn](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Phase 1B Vaccine Subcommittee Comments – Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:11:56 PM

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Dear Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Subcommittee,

I appreciate the complexity of the decisions surrounding COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and recognize the efforts of the Subcommittee to ensure an equitable distribution. I submit these comments to advocate for adding municipal utility employees to Phase 1b of the vaccine distribution rollout.

Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities provides critical Electric, Water, and Wastewater services to our community. As essential frontline utility workers, we are highly specialized, provide necessary services and must be available to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With only 5 field staff across all three utilities losing one of these employees puts a large burden on our utility.

We are not able to work from home and have gone to extreme lengths to keep employees safe and ensure continuity of the critical services we provide the community. However, our daily exposure to customers and the nature of our duties - which often requires that we work in teams - makes vaccination highly important to maintain the utility system.

Exposure to the virus by our essential workers could be catastrophic, as it has the potential to disrupt community services such as electricity, water, and wastewater. This could affect spaces such as homes, schools, daycare facilities, manufacturing companies, restaurants, grocery stores, medical clinics and government facilities. I would like to highlight the fact that this list potentially includes facilities that distribute the vaccine and keep it at the low temperature necessary for safe storage.

We respectfully request that municipal electric, water, and wastewater workers be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1b.

Your consideration of this urgent request is appreciated. Thank you for the time and effort you are spending to ensure Wisconsin is well prepared to vaccinate efficiently and effectively.

Sincerely,

*Greg Kuhn*

Utility Manager

Oconto Falls Municipal Utility

[gkuhn@ofmu.org](mailto:gkuhn@ofmu.org)

**From:** [William Marx](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Cc:** [Cardona, Mary - MEUW](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Phase 1 B  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:11:13 PM

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## Members of the SDMAC Vaccine Distribution Subcommittee:

The line crews and other employees working in Wisconsin's electric utilities have kept the lights on across our state throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency. That includes the employees of **Spoooner Municipal Utilities**, one of Wisconsin's 81 municipally-owned utilities.

We respectfully ask that, as the final recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Group 1B are developed, the mission-essential frontline water, sewer, street and electric utility workers be prioritized along with other first responders, such as firefighters and police officers. (Currently, utility workers, although not explicitly mentioned, appear to be included among "essential workers" in later priority group phases). We also strongly believe that our office staff is a critical part of the operation and should be included.

We have had several employees out of service either because they were infected or a family member was, which has been a real burden and caused us to delay some of our operations until we had a full crew. We also delayed a street reconstruction project in 2020 because we didn't believe our employees could safely work side by side to get the project done.

The pandemic has directly impacted the way our utility performs critical work. From the outset, we have taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 among our employees. For example, many of our electric utility employees are using staggered shifts or smaller teams of mission-essential workers. However, due to the nature of the work and essential training, there are times when these employees need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination highly important to the job. Some work activities also require electric employees to be in the community conducting field work, which also increases their potential exposure to the virus.

Utility workers are critical to not only the state's economy but also in supporting the healthcare sector's life-saving treatments, keeping people connected as they continue to socially distance and work from home, and more. Mission-essential workers are a subset of our workforce and are responsible for the fundamental processes and facilities that keep the lights on and energy flowing. These employees are highly

specialized and do not have the option to work from home or in isolation from others on the job site.

**Spoooner Municipal Utilities** and all of Wisconsin's municipal electric utilities are committed to serving our communities. We respectfully ask that our employees be given priority for the vaccine in order to continue delivering the critical services our customers rely on. Thank you for considering our input and for your work in planning for a smooth and effective rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Sincerely,

William Marx  
City Administrator  
City of Spooner  
P O Box 548  
Spooner, WI 54801  
715-635-8769  
715-635-9319 Fax

**From:** [Aaron Chapin](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Tier 1b comment from municipalities  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 12:09:44 PM

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Hello,

On behalf of the Village of Shorewood Hills, it would be beneficial to include a couple of groups of municipal employees in the tier 1b grouping. 1st, non-sworn law enforcement employees should be added to the tier 1b group because of the critical function these employees provide to support the agency. Most LE agencies in WI are smaller agencies and do not have many support staff members. These employees may not be engaged in direct patient care like their sworn counterparts, but because we are in a state of community spread these employees could contract COVID in their daily lives and could significantly impact the ability of an agency to function and provide required services.

The second recommendation is to put Public Works or utility type employees in tier 1b as well. For a small municipality, these employees often provide many different services and to have these employees unable to provide services could be crippling to the infrastructure of the municipality. Many DPW employees are tasked to support the water utility, trash/recycling, plowing services, and other services that residents and government rely on to operate.

Many of my concerns are focused on smaller municipalities because of the negative impact that is unable to be absorbed by the loss of one or a few employees which larger municipalities may be able to absorb. It may be beneficial for the SDMAC to consider prioritizing smaller municipalities based on these issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Aaron Chapin

--

Aaron P. Chapin - Chief of Police  
SPSC #346  
Village of Shorewood Hills Police Department  
810 Shorewood Blvd  
Madison, WI 53705  
608-267-1110



Service - Honor - Professionalism - Duty

**From:** [Samuel J. Wiltzius](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** vaccine subcommittee Phase 1B  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:57:34 AM

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I ask that the subcommittee also include FAA Licensed Certified Flight Instructors (CFI) as part of the "Education and childcare" group. This group of trained educators physically can not distance inside of an aircraft. We sit side by side and even if masked this poses a higher risk. Pilots traditionally have been considered essential employees and under current FAA guidelines we must continue to provide recurrent instruction to already licensed pilots in order to keep them flying. There are 113445 total CFIs in the United States, this includes those who are not be actively instructing but are keeping the license active. The FAA Flight Standards District Offices in Milwaukee (414) 486-2920 would be able to provide data on the number in Wisconsin.

If you need to, potentially restrict those to active CFIs who are linked to an airport or training organization my guess would be the population would be <1000 total people, but I do request it be open to all CFIs. While this is not a large population these individuals are at higher risk due to proximity (basically direct physical shoulder to shoulder contact in flight and close across table proximity on the ground), duration of contact (Typically 1-3 hours), and high percentage over the age of 60.

If you have anything I can help with I would be happy to.  
Thank you for your time.

Sam  
CFI @ Middleton Municipal Airport - Morey Field  
License: 3587247CFI

--

Sam Wiltzius

Director – Digital Transformation  
Crescent Electric Supply Company  
7750 Dunleith Drive  
East Dubuque, IL 61025

**From:** [John Hauth](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Municipal Water and Wastewater Workers  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:08:38 AM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
SDMAC.pdf

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Ms. Martha McCamy,

Please see attached comments regarding vaccine distribution for municipal water and wastewater workers.

Thank you



**John Hauth**

**Public Works Director, City of Lancaster**

206 S Madison St., Lancaster, WI 53813



(608)723-7543



(608)723-4789



Date January 14, 2021

**From:** City of Lancaster

**Subject:** Vaccination Distribution

**To:** Ann Lewandowski and State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee

We the workers of the Municipal Water and Wastewater industry have remained on the job since day 1 of the COVID-19 crisis for City of Lancaster. For the greater good, we have been putting our personal health at risk every day to maintain **public and environmental health** by supplying **clean water and wastewater treatment**. We respectfully ask that as the final version of the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is developed, that the mission essential workers employed by municipal water and wastewater systems be prioritized in **Phase 1b** of distribution, after that of frontline healthcare workers and the most vulnerable.

We recognize the seriousness of the decisions that must be made when it comes to prioritizing, what we hope will be, a safe and effective vaccination for COVID-19. We understand that there are many priorities and metrics to consider, including complex coordination with federal and local government partners.

The employees of the water and wastewater treatment industry are critical to not only the state's economy but are also critical in supporting the healthcare sector's lifesaving treatments, keeping safe, treated water flowing to all customers (**Manufacturing businesses, hospitals, clinics and other healthcare facilities included**) and has maintained wastewater treatment for sanitation at these facilities also. Hospitals and other healthcare facilities cannot run if there is no safe water available or if the toilets do not flush. **Many rural municipal systems have one or two employees, so if one or both operation specialists contract COVID-19 it means the city will be left without a means of treating water or wastewater.**

As in most situations, it is always assumed that clean, safe water, and treatment of wastewater for maintaining the sanitation of our society is assumed to happen automatically and without interruptions. **It does not happen that way and the operators that do this work place ourselves in situations dealing with the public. To that end we need to protect ourselves and our work for the functioning of society.**

Our state, the Department of Homeland Security, EPA has specifically recognized water and wastewater workers as essential critical infrastructure workers. **We are highly specialized and cannot work from home or in isolation from others on the job site.** We are exposed daily to customers and situations where we cannot isolate or distance ourselves from the work we need to do to maintain public water supplies and water treatment.



To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission among our profession, the water/wastewater industry has changed the way we work by requiring masks in the workplace, buildings are closed to the public, field staff work individually as much as possible, ride in separate vehicles and limit entry to homes and businesses. Some work has been deferred to keep employees safe. However, due to the nature of the work, there are times when we need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination – and PPE – highly important to the job. Mission essential workers in treatment plants often work in open floor plan environments and the work requires frequent consultation and physical work between employees. Some work activities also require these employees to be in the community conducting field work, often in teams, which increases their potential exposure to the virus.

Our municipality experienced a COVID-19 outbreak in May of 2020 where two water/wastewater operators became sick and were out for over two weeks, 5 other city employees were quarantined because of exposure. During this time quarantined operators had to come to work to do basic operations, fortunately no significant problems arose during this time. Since that time an additional operator was quarantined and an office staff member was sick with COVID-19.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the SDMAC committee recognize and prioritize these extremely essential workers during **Phase 1b** of the Vaccination Plan. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hawth". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Hawth  
City of Lancaster  
Director of Public Works  
206 S. Madison St.  
Lancaster, WI 53813



**From:** [Janelle Williams](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Public Input for Phase 1b of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:26:17 PM

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To Members of the Wisconsin Disaster Medical Advisory Committee,

My name is Janelle Williams. I work as an Emergency Services Dispatcher for a local municipality in the state of Wisconsin. My job entails answering 911 calls, dispatching police, fire and EMS, answering non-emergency calls, handling radio traffic from the aforementioned units, handling clerical duties such as warrant entries, taking bond, running criminal history paperwork and maintaining orderly paperwork that officers turn in before it goes to the court system. I also electively work as a trainer for new hires and create inservices for members of our center, work as a peer support team member on a department and county-wide level, do additional clerical duties above and beyond what is expected in a normal shift and am on the Telecommunicator Emergency Response Taskforce which can respond if needed to other centers when dealing with disaster incidents. I give you all of this background to help establish why a 28 year old healthy female is begging you to issue the vaccine to all 911 telecommunicators and police/fire/ems dispatchers at all agencies across the state of Wisconsin.

During the last year, I have seen firsthand the scramble that it has taken to get cleaning supplies and PPE for my department. I work in the police department, so even though we've mitigated contact with EMS calls, we still have to respond when the public calls us, whatever the call is. Even though dispatchers aren't out there with the responding units, without us, they wouldn't have anyone to tell them where to go, and the public wouldn't have anyone to call when they needed someone to help. Over the past year, myself and co-workers have taken countless calls from those suffering the symptoms of COVID-19. We've had to listen to people beg us for help as they struggle to breathe, or listen to their family members try to console them, knowing that their family member may not come back from the hospital once they go. We've had co-workers with friends who've lost loved ones, and though we haven't lost anyone from our department, my involvement in the national 911 family has shown me countless names and faces of those whose lives have been cut short by this pandemic who were 911 professionals. Yet, we keep showing up, because we are essential. Our faces may not be out there, but our voices are what connects everyone and what keeps everything together when it comes to first responders. We ARE the FIRST responders, on scene through a phone line so we can get people there who can be the boots on the ground.

To deny us the vaccine at this round would be devastating. My department personally is already short staffed, like many centers around the state and the country. We recently have had to have a couple people out over the holidays due to symptoms or exposures which causes shortages that must be filled with someone. Over the holidays, I worked 10 days straight, 3rd shift hours, 3 days which were 12 hour shifts to help cover these shortages and make sure my coworkers could enjoy time with their families during all this we've faced. And I do it while helping care for my 68 year old mother who has a compromised immune system and is disabled, and my 79 year old father who is in congestive heart failure. Months of grocery pickups, not going anywhere, never eating in restaurants and being as responsible as I can to keep everyone in my family safe. I've faced exposures at least 4 times during this pandemic that scared me so badly. I had a go bag of toiletries, clothing and non-perishables packed in case I needed to stay in my car to not infect my parents when things were more uncertain

towards the beginning. Even now, I worry whenever I have to send my units to a call when we know someone has symptoms, because there's always a chance they could somehow bring it back, or worse, get it themselves and succumb to the illness. We are like sitting ducks with whatever they bring back to us in our building, it just doesn't make sense to vaccinate the majority and then say that these few shouldn't be just because they see the public a bit less. Our risk is just as much through contact. We still have to take some bond from offenders or their family after-hours, we still have to take paperwork from the officers and handle it, we still exist in the same walls.

I'm not sure if this is doing what my intention was, to show you how much we are seriously needed, but I sure hope it does. My co-workers deserve the safety this vaccine would put them on the path towards. We put our lives on the line, our job can't be done from home and we have to exist. If there's anything you can do to put our minds at ease a bit, this would be it. At least we have the option if it's offered. I know I'll take it if the ball's in my court, because I need it to protect those I love. Thank you.

--

*Janelle R. Williams*

**From:** [Bill Skewes](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Subcommittee Public Comments - WUA  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:47:14 PM  
**Attachments:** COVID Vaccination Priority Comments 2.doc

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On behalf of Wisconsin's investor-owned gas, water and electric energy providers the Wisconsin Utilities Association, Inc. (WUA) is pleased to present the attached comments for consideration by the DHS-Vaccine Subcommittee. Please contact me if I can be of assistance or provide further information.

Bill Skewes  
WUA  
608 257 3151



**To: Wisconsin Department of Health Services**

**From: Bill Skewes, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Utilities Association, Inc.**

**Re: Comments on COVID 19 Vaccination Priority for Utility Workers**

**Date: January 13, 2021**

On behalf of Wisconsin's investor-owned gas, water and electric energy providers, the Wisconsin Utilities Association (WUA), appreciates the opportunity to comment on this issue and supports giving front line health care workers and others that are most at-risk, top priority for COVID 19 vaccinations.

In addition, WUA respectfully requests to have utility workers, including certain operations-related positions such as control room operators, be included in the scope of priority personnel in Phase 1b of Wisconsin's vaccination plan for COVID 19.

**We estimate the number of these critical water, electric and natural gas employees to be approximately 2,517.**

As you may know, utility workers provide the heat, light, water and power to Wisconsin citizens and businesses that are critical to the safe and productive functioning of our society during the pandemic. This is a very limited, highly trained, and specialized subset of our employee base, but they are vital to the state's efforts to successfully confront the impacts of COVID-19. They can neither quarantine nor work from home. They are needed on a 24/7 basis to ensure that frontline healthcare and first responders can continue their work with minimal disruption.

Keeping our citizens safe and warm with reliable gas, water and electric service in their homes this winter will allow them to maintain social distancing, work from home and remain in their limited household groups. Safe, reliable and affordable energy is also essential in keeping businesses operating to maintain their supply chains, pay their employees and build a strong economy.

For these reasons, the WUA asks that utility personnel, especially those workers directly involved in generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, water and natural gas operations, be included in the scope of priority personnel in Phase 1b of Wisconsin's vaccination plan for COVID 19.

WUA appreciates your consideration of this request.

**From:** [Tom Landwehr](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** 1b  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:41:54 PM

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I think you should include utility workers as if we don't have water,electricity or sewer workers our hospitals will have to close. Ask them how long they can go without water.

Thank you

Tom Landwehr

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Tom Wilson](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Cc:** [Jessica Frey](#); [Anderson, Robert - MUN](#); [Kevin and Leslie Even - Waunakee \(kevin@waunakee.com\)](#); [Barry Buckwalter](#); [Kent, P](#); [Bill Frederick](#); [Michael Mucha \(michaelm@madsewer.org\)](#); [Rep.Hesselbein - LEGIS](#); [Sen.Erpenbach - LEGIS](#)  
**Subject:** "vaccine subcommittee" and "Phase 1B"; Add Local Government and Special District Utility and Public Works employees to the Phase 1B list please  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:35:18 PM

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Comments on Phase 1B Recommendations

Dear Subcommittee members:

Thank you so much for the work you have done to date. At the same time, I feel you have left off of the priority list two public front line employee categories that must be included for the good of our public health and well-being: Utility and public works employee.

I believe that local government and special district public works utility works must be identified as priority front line essential workers. The provision of sanitary sewer and clean water to Wisconsin has to be a priority when it comes to good health and the prevention of disease. Every entity is stretched thin at these employment levels, and without them the toilets won't flush nor will the faucets turn on. These workers on the front line of our health, often required to actually go into homes and businesses to assist with these services, must be a priority for the vaccine. We here in the Town of Westport are a very small staff, but provide services to 4,000 people. If any of the 3 individuals that work to check the water and sewer services provided become incapacitated, and the spread the disease to each other because of the close proximity in which they work, we would have a disaster on our hands. Who would come to assist? Who would take the risk? These are necessary employees who contribute greatly to the public health and well being and must be protected with a priority.

Additional consideration should be given to those who provide other necessary public works services. We live in Wisconsin and it snows. If the roads were not plowed to do an outbreak, would ambulances and fire trucks be able to get to their emergency destinations? The same would be true for police protection services. The roads need to be open and maintained, and these every day public works employees are the reason they stay that way. Again, these individuals need to be placed as priority front line essential workers in the 1B category for vaccinations.

I am hoping the Subcommittee agrees that these two public employee categories should be added to the Phase 1B priority list. It is important to keep our public services safe for all and operation, and our transportation system operating for our safety. Please add these employees to your list so we all are safer.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas G. Wilson

Attorney/Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Westport (Dane County, WI)  
Population 4,038

5387 Mary Lake Road  
Waunakee, WI 53597

[twilson@townofwestport.org](mailto:twilson@townofwestport.org)

[www.townofwestport.org](http://www.townofwestport.org)

<http://twitter.com/TownofWestport>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Westport-Dane-County-Wisconsin/115029421892435?v=wall>

(608) 849-4372

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**From:** [Meier, Carrie](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** 1b draft question  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:33:25 AM  
**Attachments:** image001.png

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I've read thru the document.

Are utility workers in the list somewhere?

Lineman, water utility, etc?

It seems they should be considered essential, they cannot work from home and they must go into people's homes and if we lose this population to sickness or quarantine we will be risking an essential need

Thoughts? This has been my biggest question from our municipalities.

Thanks

Carrie Meier, AEMT, CEM

Interim Assistant Director / EMS Coordinator – Dane County Emergency Management

Dane County Dept. of Emergency Mgmt.

Phone: 608.266.5374

Cell: 608.444.4827

Fax: 608.266.4500

Email: [meier.carrie@countyofdane.com](mailto:meier.carrie@countyofdane.com)

<https://em.countyofdane.com/EMS>

*Learn CPR, Get the App, Save a Life – <http://danepulsepoint.com/>*



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**From:** [Ronda Lemons](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:37:30 AM  
**Attachments:** Vaccine Letter .pdf

---

January 12, 2021

From: Wesley Lemons Jr.

Subject: Vaccination Distribution

To: Ann Lewandowski and State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee

We the workers of the Municipal Water and Wastewater industry have remained on the job since day 1 of the COVID-19 crisis for Village of Twin Lakes. For the greater good, we have been putting our personal health at risk every day to maintain public and environmental health by supplying clean water and wastewater treatment. We respectfully ask that as the final version of the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is developed, that the mission essential workers employed by municipal water and wastewater systems be prioritized in Phase 1b of distribution, after that of frontline healthcare workers and the most vulnerable.

We recognize the seriousness of the decisions that must be made when it comes to prioritizing, what we hope will be, a safe and effective vaccination for COVID-19. We understand that there are many priorities and metrics to consider, including complex coordination with federal and local government partners.

The employees of the water and wastewater treatment industry are critical to not only the state's economy but are also critical in supporting the healthcare sector's lifesaving treatments, keeping safe, treated water flowing to all customers (Manufacturing businesses, hospitals, clinics and other healthcare facilities included) and has maintained wastewater treatment for sanitation at these facilities also. Hospitals and other healthcare facilities cannot run if there is no safe water available or if the toilets do not flush. Many rural municipal systems have one or two employees, so if one or both operation specialists contract COVID-19 it means the city will be left without a means of treating water or wastewater.

As in most situations, it is always assumed that clean, safe water, and treatment of wastewater for maintaining the sanitation of our society is assumed to happen automatically and without interruptions. It does not happen that way and the operators that do this work place ourselves in situations dealing with the public. To that end we need to protect ourselves and our work for the functioning of society.

Our state, the Department of Homeland Security, EPA has specifically recognized water and wastewater workers as essential critical infrastructure workers. We are highly specialized and cannot work from home or in isolation from others on the job site. We are exposed daily to customers and situations where we cannot isolate or distance ourselves from the work we need to do to maintain public water supplies and water treatment.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission among our profession, the water/wastewater industry has changed the way we work by using staggered shifts, alternating days of work, using

Page 2

smaller teams of workers, unfortunately due to the size of the town we must all work together. However, due to the nature of the work, there are times when we need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination – and PPE – highly important to the job. Mission essential workers in treatment plants often work in open floor plan environments and the work requires frequent consultation and physical work between employees. Some work activities also require these employees to be in the community conducting field work, often in teams, which increases their potential exposure to the virus. If we are exposed or contract COVID-19 this

system.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the SDMAC committee recognize and prioritize these extremely essential workers during Phase 1b of the Vaccination Plan. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Wesley Lemons Jr.

Wesley Lemons Jr.

Deputy Head Operator

Village of Twin Lakes

901 Gatewood Drive

Twin Lakes, WI 53128

**Ronda Lemons**

**847-815-4882**

January 12, 2021

**From:** Wesley Lemons Jr.

**Subject:** Vaccination Distribution

**To:** Ann Lewandowski and State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee

We the workers of the Municipal Water and Wastewater industry have remained on the job since day 1 of the COVID-19 crisis for Village of Twin Lakes. For the greater good, we have been putting our personal health at risk every day to maintain **public and environmental health** by supplying clean water and **wastewater treatment**. We respectfully ask that as the final version of the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is developed, that the mission essential workers employed by municipal water and wastewater systems be prioritized in **Phase 1b** of distribution, after that of frontline healthcare workers and the most vulnerable.

We recognize the seriousness of the decisions that must be made when it comes to prioritizing, what we hope will be, a safe and effective vaccination for COVID-19. We understand that there are many priorities and metrics to consider, including complex coordination with federal and local government partners.

The employees of the water and wastewater treatment industry are critical to not only the state's economy but are also critical in supporting the healthcare sector's lifesaving treatments, keeping safe, treated water flowing to all customers (**Manufacturing businesses, hospitals, clinics and other healthcare facilities included**) and has maintained wastewater treatment for sanitation at these facilities also. Hospitals and other healthcare facilities cannot run if there is no safe water available or if the toilets do not flush. **Many rural municipal systems have one or two employees, so if one or both operation specialists contract COVID-19 it means the city will be left without a means of treating water or wastewater.**

As in most situations, it is always assumed that clean, safe water, and treatment of wastewater for maintaining the sanitation of our society is assumed to happen automatically and without interruptions. **It does not happen that way and the operators that do this work place ourselves in situations dealing with the public. To that end we need to protect ourselves and our work for the functioning of society.**

Our state, the Department of Homeland Security, EPA has specifically recognized water and wastewater workers as essential critical infrastructure workers. **We are highly specialized and cannot work from home or in isolation from others on the job site.** We are exposed daily to customers and situations where we cannot isolate or distance ourselves from the work we need to do to maintain public water supplies and water treatment.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission among our profession, the water/wastewater industry has changed the way we work by using staggered shifts, alternating days of work, using

smaller teams of workers, unfortunately due to the size of the town we must all work together. However, due to the nature of the work, there are times when we need to be in close proximity to each other, making vaccination – and PPE – highly important to the job. Mission essential workers in treatment plants often work in open floor plan environments and the work requires frequent consultation and physical work between employees. Some work activities also require these employees to be in the community conducting field work, often in teams, which increases their potential exposure to the virus. If we are exposed or contract COVID-19 this could very well leave our town without a qualified operator to maintain our water/wastewater system.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the SDMAC committee recognize and prioritize these extremely essential workers during **Phase 1b** of the Vaccination Plan. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

*Wesley Lemons Jr.*

Wesley Lemons Jr.  
Deputy Head Operator  
Village of Twin Lakes  
901 Gatewood Drive  
Twin Lakes, WI 53128

**From:** [Stoner, Shane](#)  
**To:** [DHS SDMAC](#)  
**Subject:** State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 8:34:07 AM  
**Attachments:** Utility Vaccinations.pdf

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# CITY OF ONALASKA

415 MAIN STREET  
ONALASKA, WISCONSIN 54650-2953

**Public Works Dept.**  
PHONE: (608) 781-9543  
Fax: (608) 781-9508  
Hours: 7:00-3:00 M-F

Date: 1/13/2021

**Subject:** Vaccination Distribution

**To:** Ann Lewandowski and State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) Vaccine Subcommittee

We the workers of the Municipal Water and Wastewater industry have remained on the job since day 1 of the COVID-19 crisis for Onalaska. For the greater good, we have been putting our personal health at risk every day to maintain **public and environmental health** by supplying **clean water and wastewater treatment**. We respectfully ask that as the final version of the Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is developed, that the mission essential workers employed by municipal water and wastewater systems be prioritized in **Phase 1b** of distribution, after that of frontline healthcare workers and the most vulnerable.

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It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the SDMAC committee recognize and prioritize these extremely essential workers during **Phase 1b** of the Vaccination Plan. Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,

Shane Stoner  
Assistant Public Works Manager  
City of Onalaska  
415 Main St  
Onalaska, WI 54650