

# Plan Approval

**In June 2016, eight Governors and two Canadian Premiers entrusted with the stewardship of the Great Lakes Basin agreed unanimously to approve Waukesha's application to borrow and return water from Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes Compact Council made their decision based on several key findings:**

## DEPLETION

The current deep aquifer groundwater supply is hydrologically connected to waters of the Great Lakes Basin. Continued use of that aquifer draws groundwater away from the Basin without it being returned.

## REGULATIONS

As Waukesha's deep aquifer wells diminish in their water supply, radium concentrations are increasing and approaching levels addressed by the Safe Drinking Water Act standard.

## RESEARCH

Since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published new regulations in 2000, more than a dozen studies were conducted to find a safe, sustainable water supply with minimal impact on the environment.

## OPTIONS

None of the evaluated alternatives were found to be reliable sources for a long-term, dependable public water supply, so the Lake Michigan plan was determined to be the only possible solution.

## EXCEPTIONS

As the first community to prove it qualifies for an exception under the Compact's straddling counties provision, Waukesha has a significant obligation to both southeastern Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Basin.

## TREATMENT

Waukesha's high-quality wastewater treatment includes removal of chemical phosphorus, suspended solids, and associated contaminants to a magnitude lower than many existing dischargers to the Basin.

## RETURN

100% of the volume of water withdrawn from the Basin will be returned via return flow through the Root River, a tributary of the Basin. This effectively results in no net loss of water volume to the Basin.