

# Letter of Notice

## Availability of Environmental Assessment

Pursuant to DOC 335, Environmental Policy Implementation, an Environmental Assessment (EA) document has been prepared by the Department of Corrections (Department) to determine if the proposed action described herein will have a significant impact on the human environment and consequently require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### Location and Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is the construction of a 10 bed safety unit at Copper Lake School (CLS) in the Town of Birch, Lincoln County, which is the only secure state-operated correctional facility in Wisconsin for juvenile female offenders. The individualized needs of all female offenders are met in this single site including specialized needs such as mental health. This facility was opened in 2011. The Ida B. Wells Living Unit currently houses segregation and mental health youth and consists of 24 total rooms. Only two of the existing rooms are wet rooms; therefore, most youth are reliant on staff assistance in keying youth in/out of their rooms for bathroom breaks, showers or fluids. The wet rooms contain sinks and toilets.

The Department is proposing to construct a 10 bed housing unit and general use spaces of not more than 7,200 gross square feet at Copper Lake School to meet the security and observation, educational programming and treatment needs of Juvenile Female Offenders. All of the new rooms will be wet rooms. It will be located near the existing Wells and King Girls Housing Units. The primary goal of this project is to provide Copper Lake School the space necessary to provide a secure, safe environment for youth in need of 24-hour observation who have proven to be a threat to themselves or to others, or have experienced behavior problems warranting temporary isolation. The unit is to be self-contained with education, treatment, physical exercise, and dining on the unit.

It is the preliminary determination of the Department that this proposed action will not have a significant impact on the environment and will not require the preparation of an EIS.

Copies of the EA document may be obtained by contacting:

Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
Bureau of Budget & Facilities Management  
ATTN: Randall Mattison  
3099 E. Washington Ave., P.O. Box 7991  
Madison, WI 53707

[randall.mattison@wisconsin.gov](mailto:randall.mattison@wisconsin.gov)

A copy of the EA document may also be viewed at <http://doc.wi.gov/about/data-and-research/budget-information>

Questions and comments on the EA may also be directed to this person. All comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on November 19, 2014, in order to be included in the Department's final decision making process.

Following receipt of public comment on EA, the Department shall review the EA, consider the comments received, make modifications deemed necessary, and approve the EA which shall include either a finding of no significant impact or a finding of the need for an Environmental Impact Statement.