

Cronus Chemicals

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. IL0080084

Responsiveness Summary

Regarding

November 19, 2015 Public Hearing

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Community Relations
January 12, 2016



Cronus Chemicals

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Responsiveness Summary

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Final January 12, 2016

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Cronus Chemicals
New Permit
Permit Number IL0080084

ILLINOIS EPA PERMIT DECISION

On January 12, 2016, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency approved a new NPDES permit for Cronus Chemicals for a fertilizer plant in Tuscola, Illinois. No revisions to the permit have been made since the permit was placed on public notice on September 30, 2015.

PRE-HEARING PUBLIC OUTREACH

The notice of the NPDES permit public hearing was published in *The Tuscola Journal* on September 30, October 7 and 14, 2015.

The hearing notice was mailed or e-mailed to:

- a) State and federal elected officials;
- b) Douglas County officials;
- c) Municipal officials in Tuscola, Illinois;
- d) All who receive NPDES public notices; and,
- e) Those requesting to be notified of Bureau of Water hearings.

The hearing notice was posted on the Illinois EPA website on September 28, 2015:

<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/Assets/iepa/public-notices/2015/cronus-chemicals/hearing-notice.pdf>

Hearing notices were also posted at the Illinois EPA headquarters in Springfield.

November 19, 2015 PUBLIC HEARING

Hearing Officer Dean Studer opened the hearing November 19, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. at the North Ward Elementary School, 1201 North Prairie Street, Tuscola, Illinois.

Illinois EPA Hearing Participants:

Stefanie Diers, Assistant Counsel, Bureau of Water
Bob Mosher, Standards Section, Bureau of Water
Mark Liska, Permit Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, Bureau of Water

No comments or questions were received from the public at the hearing.

Hearing Officer Dean Studer closed the hearing at 6:53 p.m. on November 19, 2015.

Illinois EPA personnel were available before, during and after the hearing to meet with elected officials, news media and concerned citizens.

Approximately 33 persons representing neighbors, local government, businesses, and interested citizens attended the hearing. A court reporter prepared a transcript of the public hearing which was posted on the Illinois EPA website on November 30, 2015 at:

<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/Assets/iepa/public-notices/2015/cronus-chemicals/hearing-transcript.pdf>

The hearing record remained open through December 9, 2015.

BACKGROUND OF the Proposed Cronus Chemicals Facility

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Water prepared a draft new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Cronus Chemicals. The address for the discharger is Cronus Chemicals, 150 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2800, Chicago, Illinois 60601. The proposed facility will be located in Douglas County, at 785 East Highway 36, Tuscola, Illinois 61953.

The draft permit was posted on the Illinois EPA webpage on September 28, 2015 and formally placed on public notice on September 30, 2015 when the notice was distributed. Illinois EPA held a hearing for the purpose of taking comments on the draft permit prior to taking final action on the permit application. Issues relevant to this proceeding include the antidegradation analysis and the applicant's compliance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and Subtitle C of 35 Ill. Adm. Code.

The applicant proposes to operate an anhydrous ammonia plant which will produce 800,000 tons per year of anhydrous ammonia, the majority of which will be converted to 1.4 million tons of granular urea for use as agricultural fertilizer (SIC 2873). Wastewater and stormwater would be discharged to the Kaskaskia River. Intermittent discharges of stormwater would also be made to Scattering Fork Creek through a drainage tile.

Responses to Comments, Questions and Concerns

The Illinois EPA received letters in support of this project, but no environmental issues or questions were raised either at the hearing or during the public comment period.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
DMR	Discharge Monitoring Report
IEPA	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
ILCS	Illinois Compiled Statutes
Ill. Adm. Code	Illinois Administrative Code
mg/L	Milligrams Per Liter
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
pH	A Measure of Acidity or Alkalinity of a Solution
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification (a code used to classify industrial operations)
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TSS	Total Suspended Solids

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY

An announcement, that the NPDES permit decision and accompanying responsiveness summary is available on the Illinois EPA website, was mailed or e-mailed to all who registered at the hearing. Printed copies of this responsiveness summary are available from Barb Lieberoff, 217-524-3038, e-mail: barb.lieberoff@illinois.gov.

WHO CAN ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Illinois EPA NPDES Permit:

Illinois EPA NPDES technical decisions:	Mark Liska.....	217-782-0610
Legal questions	Stefanie Diers.....	217-782-5544
Water quality issues	Bob Mosher.....	217-782-3362
Public hearing of November 19, 2015	Dean Studer.....	217-558-8280

The public hearing notice, the hearing transcript, the NPDES permit and the responsiveness summary are available on the Illinois EPA website (you may have to copy the following address into your web browser window):

<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/public-notice/npdes-notice/index#cronus-chemicals>