

IEPA Log No.: **C-0588-09**
CoE appl. #: **2009-71**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **October 4, 2011**
Public Notice Ending Date: **November 3, 2011**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: City of Belleville, 213 South Illinois St., Belleville, Illinois 62220-2105

Discharge Location: Sec. 35, T1N, R8E, 3rd P.M., St. Clair County within Belleville

Name of Receiving Water: Unnamed wetlands tributary of Richland Creek

Project Description: Maintenance Campus

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Keith Runge at 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment

RE: City of Belleville

County: St. Clair County

IEPA Log #C-0588-09

COE Log #2009-71

Contact: Mark T. Books at 217/558-2012

October 4, 2011

The City of Belleville (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification to construct a new Maintenance Campus on nineteen acres of property located along Illinois Route 13, Old Freeburg Road, in Belleville. The Maintenance Campus is being built in phases. Phase I was completed in 2008 consisting of a new parking lot and salt dome storage building. Phase III is the current development request which includes additional parking spaces, additional buildings, vehicle fueling location, and material storage facilities. This project will impact 5.07 acres of the 6.51 acres of Emergent wetland identified on the 19 acre project site. The Applicant plans to excavate the impacted acres in order to obtain the required fill dirt needed for the construction. The remaining 1.44 acre of Emergent wetland and the 1.42 acres of forested wetland identified on the site will not be impacted by this project. Mitigation will be provided by purchasing 7.60 acres credit from an off-site mitigation bank. The project is located in Section 35, Township 1 North, Range 8 West.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The wetlands impacted by the project are General Use Waters with a zero 7Q10 flow. The wetlands have not been evaluated by the Illinois EPA Surface Water Monitoring Unit. The wetlands are not enhanced water bodies pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard. Using the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, the wetlands are not listed as a biologically significant nor have they received an integrity rating. The wetland affected is identified as an Emergent wetland dominated by Giant Reed, Carex, Foxtail, Curly Dock and Smart Weed. The wetland area is a fallow agricultural field which was farmed prior to 2003. The wetlands themselves drain into Richland Creek about 3,000 feet east of the site.

According to the IDNR WIRT System does not list any threatened or endangered species residing within the project site.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in suspended solids (“SS”) during the construction of the project. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in SS. Best Management Practices will need to be utilized to minimize any increase in SS during construction. The project will change the impacted Emergent wetlands area into a swallow pond area approximately 10-15 feet deep.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in SS will be local and temporary. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in SS and prevent further impact to the remaining wetlands. The Applicant has stated that they will provide wetland compensation by purchasing credits at the Southern Illinois Wetland Bank,

operated by Wetlands Forever, Inc. The Applicant will purchase both emergent and forested credits from the bank. The credit purchase would consist of 5.23 acres of emergent wetland and 2.37 acres of forested wetland acres for a total purchase of 7.60 acres of wetland credit. The Applicant has stated that they needed to purchase 2.37 acres of forested wetland credits due to availability of only 5.23 acres of emergent credits from the bank. The purchase represents a mitigation ratio of 1.5: 1.0 (5.07 acres impacted x 1.5 = 7.60 acres).

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Applicant has stated that,

“Currently, the Sanitation and Street Departments are housed in locations that are unsuitable for equipment and material storage. The inadequate storage makes the management of pollutants of concern stored at the existing City locations difficult and can result in pollutants being discharged offsite. For example, the IEPA cited the City in 2006 for inadequate storage of road salt. This was one of the impetuses for finding and developing a location with appropriate storage to contain City materials and minimize the contact of those materials with storm water. The current scattered locations are not conducive to providing public services or management of those services. Consolidating services at the proposed maintenance campus will allow more efficient management of sanitation services, equipment storage, fueling operations, material storage, and provide a single location to better manage pollutants of concern...”

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

The construction of the proposed project will follow conditions set forth by the Agency and USACE. Erosion control measures will need to be implemented to prevent additional impacts to the remaining wetlands. The Applicant has stated that;

“Best management practices (BMPs) will be incorporated in the storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for construction activities of Phase III and in the SEPPP currently under design for post construction for Phase I and II. The City will implement good housekeeping procedures to reduce the probability of pollutants of concern being contained within the storm water runoff from the facility.”

The Applicant has stated that they considered downsizing their Maintenance Campus to avoid impacting the wetlands; however, downsizing the facility will not meet their needs. The Applicant further stated that the only way to avoid impacted the wetlands and still build their desired Maintenance Campus is to bring fill material from a location outside the property. The Applicant has stated that:

“The off-site fill option will add an additional expense of \$250,000 to the project, require inspections of fill sources, and cause hazards associated with material transportation to the site. The City does not have other property capable of supplying all necessary fill material...”

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities

In a report generated through IDNR’s EcoCAT system dated March 10, 2011, the Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species residing in the vicinity of the project location; therefore, consultation is terminated.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time this antidegradation review summary was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all existing uses of the receiving waters will be maintained; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity. This project will also benefit the community at large by providing the City with a centralized and efficient Municipal Maintenance Campus. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.