

IEPA Log No.: **C-0435-10**
U.S. Coast Guard: **I-270 Canal Replacement Bridge, 192.1 UMR**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **January 20, 2011**
Public Notice Ending Date: **February 10, 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: IL Dept. of Transportation – 1102 Eastport Plaza Drive, Collinsville,
IL 62234-6198

Discharge Location: Near Mitchell in SE 1/4 Section 30 of Township 4N, Range 9W of the 3rd P.M. in
Madison County.

Name of Receiving Water: Chain of Rocks Canal

Project Description: Replace existing bridges over the chain of rocks canal with a new single structure
bridge to the north of existing bridge

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 permit application received by the U.S. Coast Guard for a Section 9 Permit under the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403). 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 James Blessman at 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
For IL Dept. of Transportation
IEPA Log No. C-0435-10
U.S.C.G. I-270 Canal Replacement Bridge, 192.1 UMR
Contact: Mark Books; 217/785-6937
Public Notice Start Date: January 20, 2011

The Illinois Department of Transportation (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for bridge replacement over Chain of Rocks Canal, located in Section 30, Township 4 North, Range 9 West, in Madison County. The structure carries I-270 over Chain of Rocks Canal near Granite City. The existing bridge will remain open during construction of the new bridge, which will be located just north of the existing bridge. Applicant will use two temporary cofferdams in a small portion of the Canal and barges to build the new bridge and remove the old bridge. Each coffer dam will be 85 linear feet long by 30 feet wide. The applicant proposes to place coarse aggregate work pads inside the cofferdams. The aggregate will be removed at completion of construction. Approximately 1602 cubic yards of Class A4 riprap will be used to protect the pillars that are installed in the Canal. No wetlands will be impacted by the proposed project.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Chain of Rocks Canal is a General Use Water with an estimated 4,637cfs 7Q10 flow at this project location. Chain of Rocks Canal Waterbody Segment IL_JO is listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List-2010 as impaired for fish consumption and public water supplies use. The cause for fish consumption impairment is PCB’s and the cause for public water supplies impairment is manganese. The canal is an enhanced waterbody 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 canal is not listed as a biologically significant stream nor has it received an integrity rating.

The IDNR WIRT System does not list any threatened or endangered aquatic species residing in the project area.

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 during the construction of the project. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in suspended solids. Aquatic life uses in the portion of the canal that will be disturbed during construction may be negatively impacted, but in time, they will recover and support approximately the same community structure as is now found in the existing canal.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in suspended solids and prevent further impact to the stream.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

This project will replace the existing I-270 Bridge over Chain of Rocks Canal due to its poor condition. Upon completion of the project, I-270 at this location will exhibit improved safety due to a new wider bridge with improved structural capacity.

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 including using Stormwater Best Management Practices (“BMP”) will need to be implemented to prevent additional impacts to the stream. The least intrusive alternative would be to not replace the bridge; however, the physical condition of the existing bridge dictates the need for a new structure. The Applicant looked at two other alternatives for the new bridge location but because of added cost and/or difficulty in tying into the current Illinois 3 and I-270 interchange the chosen alternative is the only alternative which is acceptable.

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

In a report generated by IDOT dated November 5, 2009 and concurred by IDNR (November 11, 2009) states that there are no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species 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; and that this activity will benefit the community at large through replacement of a bridge structure resulting in a safer stream crossing. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.