

IEPA Log No.: **C-0587-10**
CoE appl. #: **2010-458**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **May 20, 2011**
Public Notice Ending Date: **June 20, 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
Facility Evaluation Unit
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Illinois Department of Transportation 126 East Ash Springfield, IL 62704-4792

Discharge Location: Sec. 33, T16N, R12W, 3rd P.M., Morgan County

Name of Receiving Water: Tributaries to Spring Run Creek and Lick Branch Creek

Project Description: Widening of US 67/ IL 104 in Morgan County

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: IDOT-US 67/IL 104

Project County: Morgan

IEPA Log #C-0587-10

COE Log #MVS-2010-458

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

May 20, 2011

The Illinois Department of Transportation (“applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for work associated with widening of US 67/IL Route 104 in Morgan County, near Chapin. This segment of work consists of 6.44 miles and is part of the overall plan to construct a new 4 lane expressway from Jacksonville to Macomb (approximately 50 miles). The work will involve placement of fourteen different culvert installations. Ten of these culverts will be on sites that the USACOE has determined to be “non-jurisdictional drainage swales”. The remaining four culvert installations are described in more detail below:

- Culvert #16 is a new 72 inch reinforced concrete pipe which will be installed within an unnamed tributary to Lick Branch Creek. The work will include the re-channelization of approximately 600 feet of the unnamed creek. The total impact to this tributary is approximately 0.06 acre.
- Culvert #55 is a new 9 foot by 6 foot box culvert extension within an unnamed tributary to Spring Run Creek. Approximately 500 feet of this tributary will be re-directed into a riprap lined channel. A total of approximately 990 feet of this unnamed tributary will be lined with riprap. The total impact to this tributary is approximately 0.11 acre.
- Culverts # 134 & #135 will be installed just downstream from culvert #55, on the same unnamed tributary to Spring Run Creek. Culvert #134 will be a 10 foot by 8 foot precast concrete box culvert with riprap protection upstream and downstream. Culvert #135 will be an 8 foot by 6 foot precast concrete box culvert which will also have riprap protection installed downstream and upstream.

Normal low flows will be maintained during construction by placing culverts under the causeway or by other applicable and appropriate water re-routing methods. The stream channel will be cleaned and reshaped upon completion of the project.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The unnamed tributaries to Lick Branch Creek and Spring Run Creek are General Use Waters with a zero 7Q10 flow. The creeks have not been evaluated by the Illinois EPA Surface Water Monitoring Unit. The creeks 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 creeks are not listed as biologically significant streams nor have they received an integrity rating. The unnamed tributary to Lick Branch Creek has a drainage area of approximately 0.47 square miles at the project site. The unnamed tributary to Spring Run Creek has a drainage area of approximately 0.51 miles at Culvert # 55 installation location and approximately 0.55 square miles at Culvert # 124 and #135 installation locations. The IDNR WIRT System did not list any threatened or endangered aquatic species residing in the project area. Biological characterizations of the streams have not been required because the project will not permanently alter the existing streams habitat conditions. The USACOE has stated the following concerning this project:

“The impacts fell within the conditions of nationwide permit #14. The impacts were to manipulated ephemeral streams with no mitigation required based on impact acreages. Therefore the Stream Assessment was not utilized to calculate adverse impacts and required mitigation.”

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. The Applicant intends to implement applicable Best Management Practices (BMP's) in accordance with their Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Aquatic life uses in the portion of the creeks 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 channels.

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 streams. Construction for the proposed project will occur during a period of low flow to further minimize any impact.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The Applicant has stated the following:

“The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a transportation facility between Jacksonville and Macomb, Illinois that provides improved transportation continuity, enhanced economic stability and development, upgraded rural access, and improved travel efficiency while connecting the project area to other major transportation systems and communities in western Illinois... This improvement will connect sections of highway to the north and south that are currently either under construction as 4-lane highways or are in the planning phase”.

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

The construction of the proposed project will follow condition set forth by the Agency and USACOE. Erosion control measures will need to be implemented to prevent additional impacts to the streams. The Applicant looked at two other alternatives in detail to this proposed project, the No-Build Alternative and Build Alternative A.

- The No-Build Alternative would not improve travel efficiency with a no-stop, 4-lane expressway which would relieve traffic congestion through small communities and along steep grades. Applicant has also stated that the No-Build Alternative would not reduce the number of crashes per million vehicle miles driven on this section of highway which is currently 40 percent greater than the statewide average crash rate for 2-lane rural highways.
- The Build Alternative A was not selected because it would require more land to build, would have more environmental impacts, and this option was not the chosen alternative of the affected communities officials impacted by this project.

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

In a report generated by IDNR's EcoCAT system dated April 26, 2011 states that there are no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of the project location; therefore, consultation was 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 by providing a safer, faster travel roadway. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.