

IEPA Log No.: **C-0044-11**  
CoE appl. #: **2011-127**

Public Notice Beginning Date: June 8, 2011  
Public Notice Ending Date: July 8, 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:** Community Unit School District 20 1802 Cedar St. Lawrenceville, IL 62439

**Discharge Location:** Sec.1, T3N, R12W, 2nd P.M. Lawrence County

**Name of Receiving Water:** Unnamed tributary to Indian Creek

**Project Description:** Re-channelization of unnamed tributary to Indian Creek

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: Community Unit School District #20

County: Lawrence

Lawrenceville High School

IEPA Log #C-0044-11

COE Log #LRL-2011-127

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

June 8, 2011

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Community Unit School District #20 (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for impacts associated with their proposed construction of a new Lawrenceville High School. The project site is located in the southwest portion of town, in Section 1, Township 3 North, Range 12 West. The property is bordered to the north by James Street and to the east by Porter Avenue. The proposed site is approximately 52 acres in size. The construction will disturb approximately 23 acres. The proposed project will affect 1,025 feet of Stream E2 and 900 feet of Stream E3. Another jurisdictional stream on site (Stream E1) will not be disturbed by the proposed construction project.

**Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.**

Both impacted streams are unnamed tributaries of Indian Creek -Waterbody Segment IL-BEZH-07. Both unnamed streams are General Use waters with a zero 7Q10 flow. The streams have not been evaluated by the Illinois EPA Surface Water Monitoring Unit. The streams 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 streams are not listed as biologically significant streams nor have they received an integrity rating. The unnamed streams affected by this project are manmade drainage channels. Stream E2 has a drainage area of approximately 85 acres and Stream E3 has a drainage area of approximately 25 acres. The current wildlife habitat of the streams consists of only the bottoms of the excavated drainage channels.

The Applicant used the Illinois Stream Mitigation Method document to determine credits required from the proposed impact of the channels (6,719 mitigation credits required), and to determine the credits generated as a result of the proposed mitigation efforts (8,600 total mitigation bank credits generated). As part of the development plans for the new Lawrenceville High School Stream E2 will be diverted to flow into stream E1 on site by constructing a 610’ diversion channel and Stream E3 be diverted and lengthened to 1,595’. Total impacted stream length for the proposed project is 1,925’ and total new stream length created will be 2,205’ for a 1.15:1 mitigation ratio. The Applicant also plans to plant wetland seed mixes and native vegetation along 15’ from each side of the banks of the newly constructed streams. Additionally, beyond the wetland plantings areas grasses will be planted on both sides of the streams. When the construction is completed the streams will have a minimum of 25’ of vegetation on both sides with most of the streams area having 50’ or greater vegetation buffer. This is in contrast to the current streams situation where crops are planted up to the edge of the drainage ditches.

The IDNR WIRT System does not list any threatened or endangered 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 (“SS”) during construction. The proposed impact of the tributaries will eliminate the current habitat from the fill areas of the streams. The portion of the tributaries that will not be completely impacted by the project will retain overall aquatic life use within the project site similar to the existing conditions though reduction in use may occur temporarily. Aquatic life uses in the portion of the streams that will be disturbed during construction is anticipated to recover and support approximately the same community structure as is now found in the existing channel. The construction of the new stream channels will occur before the existing channels are filled. Best Management Practices will be utilized to minimize any increases in SS during construction.

**Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.**

The increase in SS due to construction activities will be local and temporary. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in SS and prevent further impact to the remaining stream. Mitigation for the streams will be through the plan as described above. The proposed streams mitigation will reestablish and enhance the aquatic life use within the mitigation site. The overall habitat proposed by mitigation plan including the in-stream work and the riparian corridors will provide for increased aquatic life uses and improve the water quality.

**Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.**

The proposed project will provide the community with a new/updated high school facility.

**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 be implemented to prevent additional impacts.

The applicant has stated the following:

“The existing Lawrenceville High School was constructed in 1915 and an addition was added in 1938. The project architect, VPS Architecture in Evansville, IN, explored the option of major renovations to the existing building. However, the cost of renovations would greatly exceed the cost of new construction due to the age of the existing building. Additionally, the existing school property does not offer enough acreage to provide adequate parking facilities or athletic fields. All land surrounding the school is developed and would not provide for the desired horizontal expansion on site. The proposed property for the new Lawrenceville High School was selected after reviewing other parcels within the City of Lawrenceville. The proposed property is ideal due to the proximity of the recently constructed elementary school and existing middle school. The school board had a strong desire to construct the new high school near these existing schools as a way of consolidating all of their campuses”

The Applicant has also stated concerning the selected site that, “constructing the building and avoiding all streams is impossible due to the fact that the streams cut through the middle of the site... Therefore the building has been placed in a location that minimizes the disturbance to each stream, but also provides buffering for the mitigated streams”.

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

In a report generated by through IDNR's EcoCAT system dated May 31, 2011, the Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains 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 project will benefit the community at large by construction of a new modern high school facility. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.