

IEPA Log No.: **C-0541-10**
CoE appl. #: **CEMVR-OD-P-2010-0888**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 19, 2011**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 9, 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: Logsdon Sand and Gravel – 617 W. Main St., Beardstown, IL
62618

Discharge Location: Near Beardstown in NW 1/4 Section 15 of Township 18N, Range 12W of the 3rd
P.M. in Cass County.

Name of Receiving Water: Illinois River

Project Description: Proposed to install a mooring dolphin and dredge to below low pool depth

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 James Blessman at 217/782-3362.

JTB:C-0541-10_401 PN and FS_23Mar11.docx

Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
For Logsdon Sand and Gravel
IEPA Log No. C-0541-10
COE Log No. CEMVR-OD-P-2010-0888
Contact: Mark Books; 217/785-6937
Public Notice Start Date: August 19, 2011

Mr. Todd Logsdon of Logsdon Sand & Gravel (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for impacts associated modifications to existing port facility. The Applicant proposes to expand their current permitted dredging area from 180 feet long by 40 feet wide to 900 feet long and 240 feet wide and 11 feet below flat pool to accommodate expansion of a barge loading operations at their facility. In addition a new mooring dolphin will be installed upstream of the dock location to provide for more convenient placement and staging of barges during loading operations. The dredging operation will remove approximately 14,900 cubic yards of material, which will be placed on the west and south areas of the facility to raise the elevation in anticipation of future grain storage construction. The dredge material placement site has been used in the past for dredged material placement. It is currently used for parking and equipment/material storage. The dredged material placement site is a non-wetland. The project is located at Illinois River Mile 88 in Beardstown, Section 15, Township 18 North, Range 12 West.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The Illinois River has a 7Q10 flow of 3,635 cfs at this location and is a General Use water. The Illinois River Waterbody Segment IL_D-31 is listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List-2010 as impaired for fish consumption, and primary contact recreation. The potential causes of impairment are mercury and PCB’s for fish consumption and fecal coliform bacteria for primary contact recreation. Aquatic life use is fully supported. The Illinois River at this location is not 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 Illinois River, at this location, is not listed as a biologically significant stream nor has it received an integrity rating. The Illinois River has a drainage area of approximately 24,227 square miles at the project site.

The IDNR WIRT System lists the Decurrent False Aster and the Illinois Chorus Frog as 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 during the construction of the project.

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. The Applicant has stated that they will use a clam shell (squeeze-type) mechanical backhoe mounted on a barge to dredge. The dredged

material will then be off-loaded at the port facility and spread on site after it has been allowed to dry.

Purpose and Anticipated Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The Applicant has stated the following:

“Barges often are filled to less than capacity when the river is below normal pool to prevent them from getting stuck. This results in increased shipping costs. Under low water conditions, sometimes shipping operations even have to be halted. With no on-site storage facilities at this site, grain suppliers have to find an alternative means to transport their grain. This results in lost revenues at the Logsdon Port Facility...If the permitted dredge area is expanded it will allow barges to be filled to capacity more often and more easily maneuvered into the shipping channel, without concern of getting stuck. This results in more cost effective shipping operations.”

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 stream. The only alternative is to not dredge and not conduct the modifications to this port facility. The Applicant has stated that;

‘The alternate that most improves operations and results in the most increase in the capacity of the barge operations at the Logsdon Port Facility is to increase the dredge area and install an additional mooring dolphin. This is also the alternate that provides the most flexibility for the current and future barge loading operations at this facility. This alternate also provides for improved maneuvering of barges which means improved safety for barges leaving this port and less likelihood of damage to the nearby bridge.’

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

By Letter dated August 27, 2010 Robert Schanzle from IDNR requested that the Applicant conduct a survey for the Decurrent False Aster and the Illinois Chorus Frog within their project area. The Applicant had a survey conducted for the Decurrent False Aster and no evidence of the Aster was found during the survey. The Applicant also had a survey conducted for the Illinois Chorus Frog and it was found that habitat suitable for the frog was not found in the Logsdon Port Facility and that it was unlikely that the frog would use the port facility area.

The IDNR has stated that the closest mussel bed to this project site is 3.5 miles downstream; therefore, a mussel study within the project area was not requested.

In a letter from Karen Miller dated June 30, 2011 the IDNR indicated that an initial report generated through their EcoCAT website indicated the presence of protected resources in the vicinity of the project location. Further review by the IDNR staff concludes that

adverse impacts to the protected resources are unlikely; 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 provide the Applicant a safer and more efficient port facility which will also be beneficial to the community. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.