

IEPA Log No.: **C-0862-10**  
CoE appl. #: **MVS-2010-806**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **December 22, 2011**  
Public Notice Ending Date: **January 23, 2012**

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 Mt. Vernon – P.O. Box 1708, 1100 Main Street, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

**Discharge Location:** Near Mt. Vernon in SW 1/4 of Section 35 of Township 2S, Range 2E of the 3rd P.M. in Jefferson County.

**Name of Receiving Water:** Tributary to Big Muddy Creek

**Project Description:** Proposed extension of Davidson Avenue and Veterans Memorial Drive

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 Darren Gove at 217/782-3362.

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The City of Mt. Vernon (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for work associated with the expansion of Veterans Memorial Drive and Davidson Avenue within the city. The project is located from the end of the existing portion of Davidson Avenue extending south approximately 3,000 feet and from the end of the existing portion of Veteran’s Memorial Drive extending east approximately 2,500 feet until the two roads intersect. The project is located in Section 35, Township 3 South, Range 2 East. The project will require the crossing of two unnamed creeks which are tributary to the Big Muddy River and will also impact two wetland areas. The following is a summary of the four culvert crossings.

<u>Crossing</u>	<u>Culvert Length</u>	<u>Total Impact Length</u>	<u>Riprap</u>
Stream #1 (7.5’x20’)	93’	145’-	200 Tons (Class A5)
Stream #2 (42” RCP)	94’	98’-	None
Wetland A (Dual 30”)	87’	98’	40 Tons (Class A4)
Wetland B (48” RCP)	311’	390’	100 Tons (Class A4)

Normal low flows will be maintained during construction by placing a culvert in the streams or by other applicable and appropriate water re-routing methods. The stream channels will be cleaned and reshaped upon completion of the project. The Applicant will purchase 500 LF of stream credits for the 243 LF of stream impact (over a 2:1 ratio) and the Applicant will purchase 0.757 of wetland acres (over a 1.7:1 ratio) for the 0.44 acres of wetlands and stream acres impacted by this project.

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

The unnamed creeks and the wetlands are General Use Water with a zero 7Q10 flow. The unnamed creeks and the wetlands have not been evaluated by the Illinois EPA Surface Water Monitoring Unit. The creeks and wetland areas are 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 creeks are not listed as biologically significant streams nor have they received an integrity rating. The IDNR WIRT System did not list any threatened or endangered aquatic species residing in the project area. Biological characterization of the stream has not been required because the project will not permanently alter the existing stream habitat conditions.

Below is a description of the streams and wetland areas that will be affected by this project.

	<u>Description</u>	<u>Impact</u>	<u>Drainage Area/Size</u>
Stream #1	Intermittent	145 LF	378 acres
Stream #2	Ephemeral	98 LF	17.5 acres

Wetland A	Emergent	0.09 acres	0.35 acres
Wetland B	Emergent	0.22 acres	0.59 acres

**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 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 channel.

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

Summary of Mitigation that the Applicant will do for this project:

Stream Impact Summary (feet)

Stream #1	145 Feet Impacts x 2.44:1	=	354.3 LF
Stream #2	98 Feet Impacts x 1.43:1	=	140.1 LF
Stream Total LF Purchase			494.4 LF (Will Purchase 500 Feet)

Stream Impact Summary (acres)

Stream #1	0.1 Acre Impacts x 2.44:1	=	0.244 Acres
Stream #2	0.03 Acre Impacts x 1.43:1	=	0.043 Acres
Stream Total Acre Purchase			0.287 Acre

Wetland Impact Summary

Wetland A	0.09 Acre Impacts x 1.5:1	=	0.135 Acre
Wetland B	0.22 Acre Impacts x 1.5:1	=	0.330 Acre
Total Wetlands Impact Acre Purchase			0.47 Acre

In summary the Applicant will purchase 500 LF of stream credits for the 243 LF of stream impact (over a 2:1 ratio) and the Applicant will purchase 0.757 of wetland acres (over a 1.7:1 ratio) for the 0.44 acres of wetlands and stream acres impacted by this project.

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

The Applicant has stated the following concerning the purpose for this project:

“The City of Mt. Vernon is naturally growing to accommodate a local demand for business and commercial developments. In doing so, the trend of the City has been a steady progression to the west, which encompasses the I-57 and I-64 corridor...The continued accumulation of developments and resulting influx of traffic has necessitated the need of a connector road to alleviate excessive traffic from Broadway and provide additional areas for development. The connection proposed herein is vital to the

economic development safety. This improvement will also improve emergency response to the Good Samaritan Hospital currently under construction on the existing Veterans Memorial Drive. Improvements are part of the City of Mt. Vernon's Comprehensive Development Plan."

The Applicant has also stated that this project is "Phase II" of the improvements for the new I-57/I-64 intersection that was completed during November, 2009. This project will connect the existing Veterans Memorial Drive to Davidson Avenue.

**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 streams. The only alternative to this project would be to not extend the roadways; however, as indicated above not extending the roadways and not connecting Davison Avenue to Veterans Memorial Drive will cause traffic and safety problems within the city.

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

In a letter from Steve Hamer dated April 16, 2010, IDNR stated that an initial report submitted through the EcoCAT website indicated the potential presence of protected resources in the vicinity of the project location. The letter further states that the IDNR has evaluated this information and concluded that adverse impacts to the protected resources are unlikely; 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 by improving traffic flow and allowing development to occur which will provide jobs 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.