

IEPA Log No.: **C-0137-10**
CoE appl. #: **CEMVR-OD-P-2010-0362**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 8, 2011**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 7, 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: Spring Valley Boat Club – 13862 IL Hwy 89, Spring Valley, IL 61362

Discharge Location: Near Spring Valley in Sections 23 and 26 of Township 33N, Range 1W of the 3rd P.M. in Putnam County.

Name of Receiving Water: Illinois River mile 218.5

Project Description: Proposed expansion of boat slip marina

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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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
For Spring Valley Boat Club
IEPA Log No. C-0137-10
COE Log No. CEMVR-OD-P-2010-0362
Contact: Mark Books; 217/785-6937
Public Notice Start Date: August 8, 2011

Spring Valley Boat Club (“applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for impacts associated with the proposed boat marina expansion project. The expansion will allow the addition of 22 docks and will add 4 transient slips. Specifically the site is located in Section 23, Township 33 North, Range 1 West, near Spring Valley at river mile #218.5. The marina expansion will result in approximately 15,500 cubic yards of material being excavated and relocated to expand the marina. Borrow material to construct the relocated east bank will be taken from a 1.6 acre upland site within the corner of the adjacent farm field. Approximately 0.53 acres of Farmed Palustrine Emergent (“FPE”) wetland will be filled by the marina expansion project. Maintenance dredging will occur about every 5 years, removing approximately 4,900 cubic yards of material in order to maintain a 6-foot-water depth in the harbor. Annually dredging will be needed in small problem areas to remove about 120 cubic yards of material. All the dredge material removed will be placed into the 1.6 acre borrow site until such time as it dries enough to be trucked off to upland sites to be beneficially reused.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The Illinois River has a 7Q10 flow of 3,526 cfs at this location and is a General Use water. Illinois River Waterbody Segment IL_D-16 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. 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 12,650 square miles at the project site.

To offset the loss of 0.53 acres of wetland the Applicant will create 0.78 acres of new wetland on site, south of the marina. This is approximately a 1.5:1 mitigation ratio.

The IDNR WIRT System did not list any state threatened or endangered aquatic species possibly residing within the project site.

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. The benthic habitat to be dredged will be disturbed but should revert to its previous condition of aquatic life support soon after dredging is completed. The Applicant does not expect a discharge from the borrow pit area where the dredge material will be placed; however any discharge from the dredge containment site will need to be permitted and meet effluent standards of 35 Ill. Adm. Code. Part 304.

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 project will eliminate the current habitat from the impacted wetland area. Applicant has stated the following:

“Once the embankments for the expanded marina are defined, excavation of the marina expansion area can take place between the original embankments and the new embankments. These activities can all be performed for the most part in the dry and while the existing facility remains in use, without impacting the marina waters. After those portions of the construction are nearly complete, the marina entrance will be blocked with the installation of a silt screen/turbidity curtain and the original marina area will be dredged to the depth as proposed on the plans. The existing embankments to be removed will be the last items to be excavated and they will be done so methodically by the contractor to again ensure minimal work in the wet and sediment transfer to the marina waters, all the while with the silt screen/turbidity curtain in place at the marina entrance to retain any sediment. The silt screen/turbidity curtain will not be removed during the dredging process of the wet material. By performing the construction activities in this manner, not only will the amount of sediment released be minimized, but it will be contained within the marina area,” (item #2, April 12, 2011 letter).

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Applicant has stated that, “the marina expansion is needed in order to accommodate all of the users as well as provide a safer means of access to the boat docks and the river... We believe this harbor improvement and expansion will provide a safer environment/marina layout”.

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. The Applicant will follow an Erosion & Sediment Control Plan and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan during construction. The Applicant will also be required to follow mitigation performance standards, as defined in their *Wetlands Mitigation Plan for Spring Valley Boat Club*, dated July 2010.

The Applicant reviewed two other alternatives to this proposed plan, the no-build option and build in a upland area.

- The no-build option would include reducing membership in the club. Applicant has stated that while this option is possibly this alternative does not address the safety issues of slips and the marina entrance.
- Building in an upland area is not an option because there is no upland areas located along the river within the marina area. Applicant has stated that, “to get to the upland area one would have to dig a channel through wetland... The channel to the upland area would have more impacts on wetlands than a simple river adjacent alternative”.

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

In a report generated through the IDNR's EcoCAT system dated May 4, 2010, the Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species in the vicinity of this proposed project; 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 improve the safety within this marina. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.