

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)  
Notice of Water Discharge Permit Public Hearing  
NPDES Permit **IL0079405**

**Grindstone Management, L.L.C.  
Littleton Mine**

**Public Hearing  
Wednesday, January 9, 2013  
NPDES Hearing at 6:00 pm.**

**Schuyler County Court House  
120 South Congress  
Rushville, Illinois**

The IEPA Bureau of Water has prepared a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Grindstone Management, L.L.C. for Littleton Mine. The address of the discharger is Grindstone Management, L.L.C., P.O. Box 9320, Springfield, Illinois 62791-9320. The facility is located approximately 3 miles east/northeast of Littleton in Schuyler County.

Illinois EPA is holding this hearing for the purpose of taking comments on the draft permit prior to taking final action on the permit application. Issues relevant to this proceeding include the antidegradation analysis and the applicant's compliance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and Subtitles C and D, 35 Illinois Adm. Code. Because Illinois is mandated by state law to issue a permit if the applicant meets the requirements for obtaining a permit, those recommending denial of the permit application should be prepared to state the regulation that is the basis for their recommendation.

The applicant proposes a new surface coal mine (SIC 1221). Mining operations result in the discharge of water classified as alkaline mine drainage. Application is made for four (4) new discharges which are located in Schuyler County, Illinois. The stream segment DHG of West Branch Sugar Creek receiving the flow from the unnamed tributary into which Outfall 001 discharges is not on the draft 2010 303(d) list of impaired waters. The stream segment DHJ of Boeur Branch receiving the flow from the unnamed tributary into which Outfalls 002, 003, 004 discharges is not on the draft 2010 303(d) list of impaired waters.

The proposed Littleton Mine includes the operation of a surface coal mine on a 772.9 acre parcel of land located in Schuyler County. An application for an NPDES permit for storm related discharges of wastewater from a 551.2 acre mine site has been received. The unaffected area of the mine property will be 221.7 acres. Four operational outfalls from sedimentation ponds are proposed. Outfall 001 is proposed to discharge to an unnamed tributary of West Branch Sugar Creek and Outfalls 002, 003 and 004 are proposed to discharge to unnamed tributaries of Boeur Branch.

Initially, the mine will produce 150,000 tons until a complete boxcut is opened. The mine is expected to produce approximately 400,000 raw tons annually at full capacity. The projected life is approximately 4.0 years.

The discharge structures were designed using a maximum pit pumpage of 15,000 gallons/day. It is anticipated normal daily pit pumpage will be considerably less or not at all. The facility will contain a temporary coal storage area and temporary office facilities. No processing plant or refuse disposal areas will be present. The coal will be transferred directly to an off-site coal preparation plant, a customer, or to a temporary storage pile.

The NPDES permit and the public notice/fact sheet were public noticed on August 6, 2012. The antidegradation assessment, which was part of the public notice, and other documents for this proceeding can be viewed on the IEPA website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/2012/grindstone-management/index.pdf>

The information in this antidegradation assessment came from the Application for OMM Permit No. 412, responses to the review letter and the OMM's modification letter and the June 23, 2011 letter with the alternatives and economic benefits analysis prepared by Socio-Economic Impact, Alternative Analysis, and EcoCAT Consultation.

The draft permit, public notice/fact sheet, the regulations governing the conduct of the hearing and other documents can be reviewed and copied at the Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois; 217-782-0610. Please call ahead for an appointment.

Inquiries about the draft permit IL0079405 should be directed to Larry Crislip, Manager, Permit Section, IEPA Mine Pollution Control Program, 2309 W. Main St., Marion, IL, 618-993-7200, e-mail [Larry.Crislip@Illinois.gov](mailto:Larry.Crislip@Illinois.gov).

The hearing will be held under the provisions of 35 Illinois Administrative Code 166, *Procedures for Permit and Closure Plan Hearings*, which can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-11865>.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with provisions of Sections 309.115 through 309.119. Requests for special needs interpreters must be made to the IEPA hearing officer by **December 20, 2012**. These documents can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-33358>.

The hearing record is a file containing the hearing transcript and written comments. **Written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by midnight, February 8, 2013, when the hearing record closes** (e-mails with written comments **must be** sent to [epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov](mailto:epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov) and should specify Littleton Mine NPDES or IL0079405 in the subject line). Email comments originating on third party systems or servers intended for submittal of multiple emails of the same or nearly the same content, will not be accepted without prior approval from the hearing officer. The IEPA welcomes substantive written comments. Comments need not be notarized and should be sent to:

Hearing Officer Dean Studer  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P. O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794-9276  
Phone 217-558-8280

TDD (hearing impaired) 217-782-9143

All other comments not pertaining to this permit can be emailed to the hearing officer at [dean.studer@illinois.gov](mailto:dean.studer@illinois.gov).