

IEPA Log No.: **C-0042-12**
CoE appl. #: **MVS-2012-145**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 13, 2012**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 3, 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: Illinois Department of Transportation, District 8 – 1102 Eastport
Plaza Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234-6198

Discharge Location: Near East St. Louis in Sections 11 and 12 of Township 2N, Range 10W of the 3rd
P.M. in St. Clair County.

Name of Receiving Water: unnamed wetlands

Project Description: Proposed relocation of Illinois Route 3 in association with the New Mississippi
River bridge project.

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 Illinois Department of Transportation-District 8 (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for proposed work involving constructing a new roadway for Illinois Route 3. The proposed project begins just south of the Martin Luther King Bridge and then proceeds east where improvements terminate just south of St. Clair Avenue. The project consists of four different road projects that are needed to relocate Illinois Route 3 in association with the construction of the new I-70 Mississippi River Bridge project. Two of the four road projects will have permanent impacts to wetlands. Construction on this project includes the new River Park Drive Connector (759’ long), the Missouri Avenue Connector (2,510’ long), the St. Clair Connector roadway (1255’ long), as well as relocating and widening to four lanes Illinois Route 3 (4,633’ long). A total of 3.47 acres of emergent wetlands will be impacted as a result of this project. The project is located in the City of East St. Louis, specifically within Sections 11 and 12 of Township 2 North, Range 10 West.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The wetlands are classified as General Use Water with a zero 7Q10 flow. The wetlands have not been evaluated by the Illinois EPA Surface Water Monitoring Unit. The wetlands are not an enhanced water body 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 wetlands are not listed as biologically significant nor have they received an integrity rating.

There are seven wetlands within the project study corridor that will be impacted by this project.

Wetland ID#	Description	Quality/FQI #	Impact Acres	Off-Site Mitigation Ratio	Required Mitigation Acres
#8	Wet Meadow	Low-5.8	0.06	2:1	0.12
#9	Wet Meadow	Low-7.6	0.53	4:1	2.12
#11	Wet Meadow	Low-8.4	0.05	2:1	0.10
#12	Pond	Fair-10	1.36	4:1	5.44
#13	Pond	Fair-9.7	0.95	4:1	3.80
#14	Pond	Fair-9.7	0.17	2:1	0.34
#59	Wet Meadow	Low-9.4	0.35	2:1	0.70
Total			3.47		12.62

The difference in the mitigation ratio is explained in the Illinois Interagency Wetlands Policy Act:

“Per the Illinois Interagency Mitigation Policy Act for Standard Review Actions all wetland impacts that are less than 0.5 acre and are mitigated off-site, in-basin requires a mitigation ratio of 2.0:1.0 and all impacts that are greater than 0.5 acre of impact are classified as destruction and if mitigated off-site, in-basin requires a mitigation ratio of 4.0:1.0.”

Concerning Mitigation for these wetlands the Applicant will purchase the required mitigation acres from the Eckman-Bischoff Wetland Mitigation Bank which is considered off-site but in the same basin.

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. The proposed impact of the wetlands will eliminate the current habitat from the affected fill areas of the wetlands.

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 (“SS”) and prevent further impact to the stream.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The Applicant has stated the existing 2-lane section of Illinois Route 3 is inadequate to handle the forecasted traffic flow and the existing route needs to be modified in order to get proper alignment due to the New Mississippi River Bridge location.

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 Applicant will follow Best Management Practices for construction which will include a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (“SWPCC”) and an Erosion/Sediment Control Plan to control storm water discharges from the project area. The Applicant has also stated the following:

“All runoff originating on disturbed areas associated with this project will pass through one or more measures that will minimize the off-site sediment impacts of the construction activity.”

These measures will include the use of a storm water detention/ retention structure. The Applicant has stated that most of the stormwater runoff from the new roadway will go thru this detention basin prior to entering the wetlands.

The Applicant has revised previous construction plans in order to avoid as many wetlands as possible and still construct the project as necessary. Besides the No-build alternative the Applicant reviewed five different options to this proposed project. They include the Front Street alternative alignment, and alternative alignments A, B, C, and D. Concerning the selected alternative (alignment D) the Applicant has stated the following:

“Line D alternative is the only proposed alternative that fully satisfies the project’s purpose and need and has the ability to have an interchange with the New Mississippi River Bridge project.”

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

In a letter from Steve Hamer dated February 21, 2012, 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.

The State listed endangered plant Decurrent False Aster was identified as possibly being in the project area. The Applicant conducted a survey within the project area for the Decurrent False Aster and has stated the following concerning the result of their survey:

“All areas that appeared to be suitable habitat for the species were thoroughly searched, but Decurrent False Aster was not found. The species does not appear to be anywhere within the project corridor.”

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 providing better traffic flow in the area. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.