

IEPA Log No.: **C-0219-11**  
CoE appl. #: **2011-274**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **February 17, 2012**

Public Notice Ending Date: **March 19, 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:** Winnetka Park District 540 Hibbard Road Winnetka, IL 60093

**Discharge Location:** Sec. 16, T42N, R13E, 3rd P.M. in Cook County

**Name of Receiving Water:** Lake Michigan

**Project Description:** Construct quarrystone breakwater, place sand on the beach of Lake Michigan, and modify an existing pipe for stormwater conveyance.

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 Keith Runge at 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment

RE: Winnetka Park District

County: Cook

IEPA Log # C-0219-11

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Contact: Brian Koch at 217/558-2012

February 17, 2012

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The applicant has applied for 401 water quality certification to construct a 40-foot quarystone breakwater, modify an existing pipe for stormwater conveyance, and place 420 tons of sandfill on the existing beach. The project site is located along Lake Michigan at 799 Sheridan Road in Winnetka in Section 16, Township 42 North, Range 13 East, 3<sup>rd</sup> Principal Meridian in Cook County, Illinois. The purpose of the project is to assure long-term stability of the existing deteriorating concrete pier as well as to reduce wave scour and help maintain the sandy beach for the south end of Lloyd Park Beach. Approximately 400 tons of quarried stone will be used to construct the breakwater at the lakeward end of the existing concrete pier. The breakwater will be constructed at a crest elevation of 583 feet and will extend about 30 feet north of the pier and encapsulate the south end of the groin. The breakwater will run parallel to shore and will not impede access for beach walkers. The village of Winnetka is abandoning an existing high pressure water main, but the park district plans to reuse the pipe to convey stormwater runoff to Lake Michigan. A curtain drain will be placed at the top of the bluff to collect stormwater and prevent further erosion of the beach. A small amount of stone will be placed to support the pipe that will outlet into the new stone breakwater. In accordance with IDNR requirements, 420 tons of clean beach nourishment will be placed as pre-mitigational fill.

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

Lake Michigan is a large oligotrophic lake subject to the Lake Michigan Basin water quality standards of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302 Subpart E. The project is located near Segment 10N of the open waters of Lake Michigan, which is listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List – 2010 as impaired for fish consumption with a cause given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls.

### **Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.**

The construction activities will cause a temporary increase in suspended solids and habitat will be disturbed in the vicinity of the construction area. However, the project will provide shoreline stabilization by minimizing wave scouring and erosion from storm events. Over time, a net reduction of suspended solids loadings into the lake may occur. Benthic habitat will be reduced along the proposed fill area, but the large stone used in the breakwater will provide a new, diverse habitat for aquatic life. No increased pollutant loading is expected to occur from the stormwater pipe, as the drainage area is not increasing and the curtain drain and stormwater pipe are simply being used as a means to decrease ongoing erosion at the beach.

**Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.**

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. The benthic habitat disturbed by the construction activities is anticipated to recover to pre-construction conditions over time.

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

The proposed activity will promote shoreline stabilization and provide aesthetic and recreational benefits to park visitors.

**Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.**

The construction of the proposed project will follow guidelines set forth by the Agency and USACE. Erosion control measures need to be implemented to prevent additional impacts. The least intrusive alternative would be to not complete the project. This is not an acceptable alternative given that this is a useful project that will promote shoreline stabilization and provide aesthetic and recreational benefits to park visitors.

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

The IDNR EcoCAT system was consulted on January 20, 2012. It was determined that the Hubbard Woods INAI site, marram grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*), and seaside spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*) may be in the vicinity of the project location, thereby requiring further IDNR review. Additionally, IDNR requested that site surveys for the protected resources be conducted in the staging areas, beach nourishment areas and project area. A survey was conducted on February 8, 2012 and the protected resources were not observed at the site. Subsequently, IDNR terminated consultation on February 14, 2012.

**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 the assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all existing uses of Lake Michigan 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 a stabilized shoreline along Lake Michigan. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.