

The applicant has applied for 401 water quality certification for the dredging of a harbor for the Calumet Yacht Club, located in Section 8, Township 37 North, Range 15 East, Cook County, Illinois. This project is for a 10-year maintenance dredging permit. The applicant proposes to annually dredge approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material in order to maintain the harbor's depth at 5 feet. The applicant proposes the use of a small pontoon boat mounted hydraulic dredge. Dredged material will be placed on the beach in a contained facility located east of the clubhouse on private Calumet Yacht Club property. Dredged material placement shall be conducted in a manner to prevent overflow or discharge from the contained facility. The applicant has also proposed to replace several sections of deteriorated timber seawall around the marina. The deteriorated timbers will be removed and replaced with oak timber and backfilled with existing broken concrete.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Calumet Harbor (Segment IL_3S of Lake Michigan) is subject to the Lake Michigan Basin water quality standards of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302 Subpart E. It is listed on the draft 2012 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for fish consumption (causes = polychlorinated biphenyls and mercury).

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

No pollutant load increases would occur from this project other than some increases in suspended solids during the dredging and the replacement of the timber sea wall structure. The benthic habitat to be dredged would be disturbed but should revert to its previous condition of aquatic life support soon after dredging.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids would be local and temporary.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

This project would remove excessive sand from within the harbor and would allow for continued recreational uses of this harbor.

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

The dredging project would follow guidelines set forth by the Agency and COE. Annual testing for the determination of sample percent passing #230 sieve and asbestos would be required to be submitted to the Agency for review prior to dredging. The least intrusive alternative would be to

not dredge the site. This is not an acceptable alternative given that this is a useful project that would allow for continued recreational uses of the lake.

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

The IDNR EcoCAT system was consulted on April 03, 2013. It was immediately determined that no State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves are in the vicinity of the project location. Consultation was immediately 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 the assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity would result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all existing uses of Lake Michigan would 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 would benefit the community by continuing recreational uses of the lake. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.