



State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa Bonett, Director

Public Hearing
**Northern White Sand (formerly Illinois Sand) Company, LLC NPDES
Permit
US Route 6 and East 11th Road
NPDES Permit No. IL0080004
LaSalle County
Utica, Illinois**

September 30, 2013

**Facility Location
and Application
Information**

On February 27, 2012, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) received an application from Illinois Sand Company LLC for a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The proposed facility is an approximate 185-acre sandstone quarry located in Sections 11 and 12, Township 33N, Range 2E of the 3rd P.M. near Utica. Proposed mining operations include the crushing, washing, and sizing of sandstone deposits. Mine operations include the removal and stockpiling of overburden for later use in reclamation. Process water would be drawn from the sedimentation pond to be constructed on-site. Stormwater from off-site sources would be directed around the facility with the use of constructed berms and drainage channels. On-site runoff would be directed to the sedimentation pond. Mine operations result in the discharge of storm water and groundwater seepage from outfall 001 at an average discharge rate of 0.144 MGD to an unnamed tributary of the Illinois River. A public availability session was held on December 11, 2012 regarding water and air permits. Following the public session an individual NPDES permit was drafted and made available for public comment on July 5, 2013.

**Public Participation
and Hearing
Information**

When there is a significant degree of public interest in the NPDES permit, the Illinois EPA is required to hold a public hearing. The purpose of the public hearing is to give citizens a chance to comment on the draft permit before final action is taken on the permit application. The public hearing will be held:

Monday, October 7, 2013,
at 3 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m.
in the Lodge at Starved Rock State Park,
Routes 178 and 71,
Utica, Illinois 61373

The public hearing will be held in accordance with Illinois EPA's "Procedures for Permit and Closure Plan Hearings" (35 Ill. Adm. Code 166) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code Sections 309.115 through 309.119, copies of which may be obtained on the web at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-11865> and <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-33358>, respectively, or from the Hearing Officer:

Dean Studer, Hearing Officer, Mail Code #5
Re: Illinois Sand Mine NPDES
1021 N. Grand Ave. East, P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276.
Telephone: 217-558-8280
dean.studer@illinois.gov

Overview of a Public Hearing

An Illinois EPA public hearing usually consists of the following steps:

REGISTRATION - Everyone who attends the public hearing is encouraged to register and indicate whether they plan to speak, so that the appropriate amount of time is provided for speakers. Registration also ensures that you will be notified of the availability of the responsiveness summary, a document which describes the Illinois EPA's final decision and contains written responses to all relevant issues presented at the hearing and/or received during the comment period.

OPENING STATEMENT - The Illinois EPA hearing officer will explain the purpose, rules, agenda, and deadlines associated with the public hearing and notice period. He will also introduce the Illinois EPA staff seated on the hearing panel.

EXPLANATION OF PROGRAM AND APPLICATION OVERVIEW - Illinois EPA staff will present an overview of the regulations of the permitting program and the application details. The applicant may also make a statement.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - During this time, people may ask the hearing officer questions about the public notice and hearing process. Please be brief so that we may move quickly into public testimony.

PUBLIC COMMENT - People who have registered and requested to comment will be called upon in turn to make a statement. Comments will be limited to those relevant to NPDES permit, the application and the application review process. Speakers may be questioned by the hearing panel after giving oral comment. No one may be interrupted or harassed while making a statement. Time limits for each speaker may be set by the hearing officer.

The Illinois EPA urges you to submit your comments in writing in order to maintain continuity of thought and to remember all important facts. If anyone before you has already presented a comment that is contained in your comments, please skip over those issues when you speak. Any written comments filed with the hearing officer, whether or not you say them aloud at the hearing, will become part of the official hearing record and will be considered during the application review process. Speakers are not required to remain at the hearing after providing their comments.

CLOSE OF HEARING – The hearing officer will officially close the public hearing and remind everyone of the deadline for mailing written comments.

Public Comment Period

A public comment period is being held in conjunction with the public hearing. All comments previously submitted either through the public availability session or when notice of draft permit was made public on July 5, 2013 have been included in the record for this public hearing. Please do not submit comments that have already been filed in one of the proceedings. The public comment period will close on Wednesday, November 6, 2013.

Written public comments must be postmarked by November 6, 2013.

Comments sent via e-mail must contain "Illinois Sand Mine NPDES" or "IL0080004" in the subject line. E-mail comments originating on third party systems or servers intended for submittal of multiple e-mails of the same or nearly the same content will not be accepted without prior approval from the hearing officer.

Public comments should be directed to:

Dean Studer, Hearing Officer, Mail Code #5
Re: Illinois Sand Mine NPDES
1021 N. Grand Ave. East, P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
E-Mail: epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov

All comments will be reviewed by Illinois EPA technical staff prior to a final decision on the certification application. Comments need not be notarized. Public comments become part of the Illinois EPA's hearing file.

Please Keep In Mind

Illinois EPA public hearings are conducted in an orderly manner. The public hearing will be recessed or closed if attendees disrupt the proceedings, prevent speakers from presenting comments, commandeer microphones, or become verbally abusive. Remember, the premature closing of the public hearing does not benefit anyone.

The Illinois EPA is required by law to make decisions based upon the technical merits of applications as outlined in applicable state and federal environmental regulations. Comments of technical merit from the public that can be incorporated into Illinois EPA decisions are encouraged. Petitions and form letters are not effective in influencing Illinois EPA decisions.

The Illinois EPA **does not** support or defend either specific projects or applications for permits. The Illinois EPA **does** defend the process and regulations under which staff review applications.

Additional Information

Application related documents and additional information are available through the Illinois EPA's Freedom of Information office. To obtain more information about this site, please file a request for site specific information to the address listed below or submit a request through the Illinois EPA's website <http://www.epa.state.il.us/foia/>. In your request please reference "Illinois Sand Mine" and the NPDES Permit Number, IL0080004.

Tom Reuter, Acting FOIA Officer
IEPA, Division of Records Management and FOIA, #16
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
Phone: 217-558-5101
Fax: 217-782-9290

Comment Guidance Comments given or submitted in regards to a public hearing should be relevant to the application under review by the Illinois EPA. Relevant comments include specific statements about the application and information indicating whether the permit as drafted would meet the requirements of state and federal environmental regulations pertaining to water standards.

Unsupported opinions are less effective than specific facts and technical documentation. Topics that cannot be considered by the Illinois EPA in making a decision on the application for an NPDES permit include: 1) local ordinances (including zoning); 2) permits or certifications other than the one currently under consideration; 3) property values; 4) specific mining requirements that are regulated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources; 5) the number or people that support permit issuance and the number of people that do not support permit issuance; and, 6) other issues not regulated by the Illinois EPA Bureau of Water.

Please keep in mind, a public hearing is not a referendum to determine whether an application will be approved. The Illinois EPA is required by law to make decisions based upon the technical merits of applications as outlined in applicable state and federal environmental regulations.

Contact Information

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September 21, 2013