

NPDES Permit No. IL0080021  
Notice No. SMT:13030801.smt

Public Notice Beginning Date: **April 29, 2013**

Public Notice Ending Date: **May 29, 2013**

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
Permit Program

Draft New NPDES Permit to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Bureau of Water,  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
Permit Section  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
Post Office Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
217/782-0610

Name and Address of Discharger:

Nicor Gas  
1844 Ferry Road  
Naperville, Illinois 60563

Name and Address of Facility:

Nicor Gas  
1844 Ferry Road  
Naperville, Illinois 60563  
(DuPage County)

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has made a tentative determination to issue a NPDES permit to discharge into the waters of the state and has prepared a draft permit and associated fact sheet for the above named discharger. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice/Fact Sheet. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commentor 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 draft permit to the IEPA at the above address. Commentors shall provide his or her name and address and the nature of the issues proposed to be raised and the evidence proposed to be presented with regards to those issues. Commentors may include a request for public hearing. Persons submitting comments and/or requests for public hearing shall also send a copy of such comments or requests to the permit applicant. The NPDES permit and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The application, engineer's review notes including load limit calculations, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, draft permit, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA 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 draft permit, the permitting authority may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 45 days before any public hearing. Response to comments will be provided when the final permit is issued. For further information, please call Shu-Mei Tsai at 217/782-0610.

The applicant is engaged in the operation of natural gas pipeline (SIC 4925). Waste water is generated from hydrostatic testing of natural gas transmission lines. Water will be obtained from the detention pond of the south of the Nicor Office building and the West Branch of the DuPage River. Testing activities will result in an average discharge of 1.5 MGD of hydrostatic test water from outfall 001, 1.5 MGD of hydrostatic test water from outfall 002, 1.5 MGD of hydrostatic test water from outfall 003, and 1.5 MGD of hydrostatic test water from outfall 004.

Application is made for new discharges which are located in DuPage County, Illinois. The following information identifies the discharge point, receiving stream and stream classifications:

Outfall	Receiving Stream	Latitude		Longitude		Stream Classification	Biological Stream Characterization
001	West Branch DuPage River	41° 48' 30"	North	88° 10' 30"	West	General Use	D
002	West Branch DuPage River	41° 48' 15"	North	88° 10' 30"	West	General Use	D
003	West Branch DuPage River	41° 48' 15"	North	88° 10' 30"	West	General Use	D
004	Unnamed Tributary to the West Branch Dupag River	41° 48' 15"	North	88° 11' 45"	West	General Use	Not Rated

To assist you further in identifying the location of the discharge please see the attached map.

The stream segment (GBK-05) receiving the discharge from outfall 001, 002, and 003 is on the draft 2012 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as it has been assessed. The receiving water has not been given an integrity rating or been listed as biologically significant in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, however, it is given an integrity rating in that publication of "D" at this location. The impaired designated uses and pollutants causing impairment are tabulated below:

Designated Uses	Pollutants Causing Impairment
Aquatic Life, and Primary Contact Uses	Alterations in Streamside Vegetative Cover (Non-Pollutant), Other Flow Regime Alterations (Non-Pollutant), Total Phosphorus, Sedimentation/Siltation, Total Suspended Solids, and Fecal Coliform Bacteria

The stream segment receiving the discharge from outfall 004 is not on the draft 2012 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as it has not been assessed. The receiving water has not been given an integrity rating or been listed as biologically significant in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*.

The discharge(s) from the facility shall be monitored and limited at all times as follows:

Outfall(s): 001 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)  
 002 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)  
 003 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)  
 004 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)

	LOAD LIMITS lbs/day DAF (DMF)			CONCENTRATION LIMITS mg/l		
PARAMETER	30 DAY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM	REGULATION	30 DAY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM	REGULATION
Flow (MGD)						
pH						35 IAC 304.125
Total Suspended Solids				15	30	35 IAC 304.124
Oil and Grease				15	30	35 IAC 304.124
Iron				2	4	35 IAC 304.124

The following explain the conditions of the proposed permit:

The special conditions clarify flow monitoring, pH limits, monitoring locations, DMR submission requirements, withdrawal of source water, and various other discharge requirements.

Antidegradation Assessment for Nicor Gas Hydrostatic Test  
NPDES Permit No. IL0080021 DuPage County

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The subject facility has applied for an NPDES permit for the hydrostatic testing of new and existing segments of natural gas pipeline totaling approximately 5.6 miles. There will be four discharge locations. Outfall number, source water, and receiving water body are given below. All discharges will be equipped with structures to disperse energy and prevent erosion. Duration of discharge will last up to seven days. Maximum discharge rate will be 1,500 gallons per minute. The maximum amount of water discharged will be 1.5 MG at each of the four discharge sites. All waters used will be taken from the water body that will receive the discharged effluent after the test.

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

Outfalls 001, 002 and 003 will be discharges of West Branch DuPage River sourced test water back to the West Branch DuPage River. The West Branch DuPage River (segment code GBK-05) has a 7Q10 flow of 22.2 cfs and is a General Use water. The West Branch DuPage River is listed on the draft 2012 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for aquatic life and primary contact uses. The causes of aquatic life use are given as alteration of stream-side vegetative cover (non-pollutant), other flow regime alterations (non-pollutant), total phosphorus, sedimentation/siltation and total suspended solids. The cause of primary contact use impairment is fecal coliform bacteria. The West Branch DuPage River is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, however, it is given an integrity rating in that publication of "D" at this location. The West Branch DuPage River is not designated as an enhanced water pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard at this location.

Outfall 004 will be a discharge of borrow pond sourced test water from the Nicor office building property to an unnamed tributary of the West Branch DuPage River on the office building property that is the natural outflow of the pond. The unnamed tributary (no segment code) has a 7Q10 flow of zero cfs and is a General Use water. The unnamed tributary is not listed on the draft 2012 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for any use. The Illinois EPA has not evaluated this waterbody. The unnamed tributary is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor is it given an integrity rating in that publication. The unnamed tributary is not designated as an enhanced water pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

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

Parameters that will increase in loading are associated with residual materials in the pipeline. Total suspended solids, oil and grease, and iron may be suspended in the test water originating from the inside of the pipe, valves and fittings of the pipeline. Given that most of the pipeline is new material, these additions to the test water are anticipated to be minimal. No adverse impacts to the water bodies are anticipated from the hydrostatic tests.

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

The iron and total suspended solids discharged will be regulated by the state effluent standards and will become part of the bed sediment of the receiving waters. Oil and grease will also be regulated with the state effluent standard and therefore no visible remnant may be discharged. No adverse effects are anticipated in the receiving waters.

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

It is vitally important that natural gas pipelines be hydrostatically tested to ensure the safety of the nearby communities. Regulations require this testing.

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

The pipeline owner has chosen responsible methods of hydrostatic testing. Waters used in the testing are taken from the receiving water. Therefore, no possibility exists to spread invasive species during the testing. Erosion control measures will be applied at the points of discharge. The new sections of pipeline, which constitute 5.4 miles of the 5.6 mile total, will be coated with epoxy. This material will reduce iron and other substances that may enter the test water from the pipe.

The hydrostatic test methods chosen are the accepted norm for these projects. Hydrostatic testing is a very short-term activity. The discharges will last at most only seven days. Arranging for effluents to be land applied, sent to a POTW or other alternatives are not practical for this type of discharge. Discharging the effluents to local surface waters in a responsible manner has been developed as the proper method of dealing with the water needed for the testing.

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

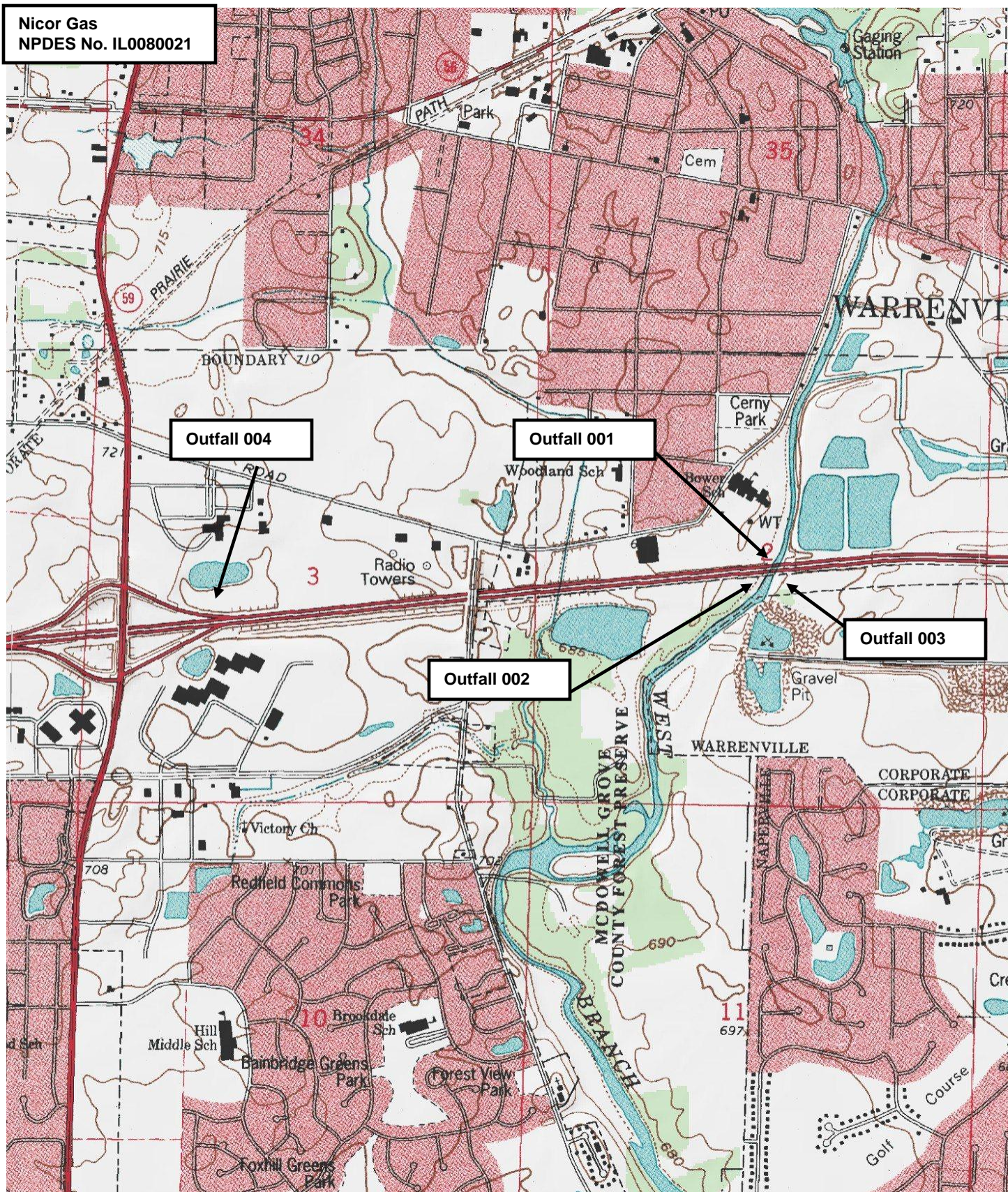
The Illinois Department of Natural Resources was consulted regarding threatened and endangered species issues for each discharge location via the EcoCAT system on March 12, 2013. It was immediately determined that no threatened or endangered aquatic species reside in any of the water bodies, but that terrestrial species were found nearby. In a letter dated March 15, 2013, IDNR terminated consultation.

**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 draft permit 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 streams 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 communities at large by ensuring the safety of the natural gas pipeline. Comments received during the NPDES permit public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.



Nicor Gas  
NPDES No. IL0080021





NPDES Permit No. IL0080021

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Division of Water Pollution Control

1021 North Grand Avenue East

Post Office Box 19276

Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

New (NPDES) Permit

Expiration Date:

Issue Date:

Effective Date:

Name and Address of Permittee:

Facility Name and Address:

Nicor Gas  
1844 Ferry Road  
Naperville, Illinois 60563

Nicor Gas  
1844 Ferry Road  
Naperville, Illinois 60563  
(DuPage County)

Discharge Number and Name:

Receiving Waters:

001 Hydrostatic Test Water  
002 Hydrostatic Test Water  
003 Hydrostatic Test Water  
004 Hydrostatic Test Water

West Branch DuPage River  
West Branch DuPage River  
West Branch DuPage River  
Unnamed Tributary to the West Branch DuPage River

In compliance with the provisions of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, Title 35 of Ill. Adm. Code, Subtitle C and/or Subtitle D, Chapter 1, and the Clean Water Act (CWA), the above-named permittee is hereby authorized to discharge at the above location to the above-named receiving stream in accordance with the standard conditions and attachments herein.

Permittee is not authorized to discharge after the above expiration date. In order to receive authorization to discharge beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit the proper application as required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) not later than 180 days prior to the expiration date.

Alan Keller, P.E.  
Manager, Permit Section  
Division of Water Pollution Control

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## NPDES Permit No. IL0080021

Effluent Limitations and Monitoring

1. From the effective date of this permit until the expiration date, the effluent of the following discharge(s) shall be monitored and limited at all times as follows:

Outfall(s): 001 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)  
 002 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)  
 003 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)  
 004 Hydrostatic Test Water (DAF = 1.5 MGD)

PARAMETER	LOAD LIMITS lbs/day <u>DAF (DMF)</u>		CONCENTRATION <u>LIMITS mg/l</u>		SAMPLE FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE
	30 DAY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM	30 DAY AVERAGE	DAILY MAXIMUM		
Flow (MGD)	See Special Condition 1				Daily When Discharging	
pH	See Special Condition 2				Daily When Discharging	Grab
Total Suspended Solids			15	30	Daily When Discharging	Grab
Oil and Grease			15	30	Daily When Discharging	Grab
Iron			2	4	Daily When Discharging	Grab

NPDES Permit No. IL0079588

Special Conditions

SPECIAL CONDITION 1. Flow shall be measured in units of Million Gallons per Day (MGD) and reported as a monthly average and a daily maximum value on the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report.

SPECIAL CONDITION 2. The pH shall be in the range 6.0 to 9.0. The monthly minimum and monthly maximum values shall be reported on the DMR form.

SPECIAL CONDITION 3. Samples taken in compliance with the effluent monitoring requirements shall be taken at a point representative of the discharge, but prior to entry into the receiving stream.

SPECIAL CONDITION 4. The Permittee shall record monitoring results on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Forms using one such form for each outfall each month.

In the event that an outfall does not discharge during a monthly reporting period, the DMR Form shall be submitted with no discharge indicated.

The Permittee may choose to submit electronic DMRs (eDMRs) instead of mailing paper DMRs to the IEPA. More information, including registration information for the eDMR program, can be obtained on the IEPA website, <http://www.epa.state.il.us/water/edmr/index.html>.

The completed Discharge Monitoring Report forms shall be submitted to IEPA no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month, unless otherwise specified by the permitting authority.

Permittees not using eDMRs shall mail Discharge Monitoring Reports with an original signature to the IEPA at the following address:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
Post Office Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Attention: Compliance Assurance Section, Mail Code # 19

SPECIAL CONDITION 5. If an applicable effluent standard or limitation is promulgated under Sections 301(b)(2)(C) and (D), 304(b)(2), and 307(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act and that effluent standard or limitation is more stringent than any effluent limitation in the permit or controls a pollutant not limited in the NPDES Permit, the Agency shall revise or modify the permit in accordance with the more stringent standard or prohibition and shall so notify the permittee.

SPECIAL CONDITION 6. In addition to other requirements of this permit, no effluent shall contain settleable solids, floating debris, visible oil, grease, scum, or sludge solids. Color (including color resulting from dyes or tracers in the hydrostatic test water), odor and turbidity must be reduced to below obvious levels.

SPECIAL CONDITION 7. The permittee shall provide telephone notification to the IEPA Des Plaines Regional Office, (847) 294-4000, at least 24 hours prior to any hydrostatic pipeline testing which may result in a discharge.

SPECIAL CONDITION 8. Appropriate measures shall be taken to prevent water quality impacts resulting from soil erosion due to the discharge. The discharge flow rate shall be controlled so as not to cause scouring or other damage to stream beds or banks.

SPECIAL CONDITION 9. Solid wastes such as straw used for filtering or erosion control shall be disposed of in accordance with state and federal law.

SPECIAL CONDITION 10. The permittee shall only discharge hydrostatic test water to the watersheds from which it was withdrawn.

SPECIAL CONDITION 11. In the event that the permittee shall require the use of water treatment additives, the permittee must request a change in this permit in accordance with the Standard Conditions - Attachment H.

SPECIAL CONDITION 12. In the event the permittee requires a new discharge location, the permittee must complete and submit application forms 1 and 2D for each new location.

SPECIAL CONDITION 13. When test water is discharged to the same waterbody from which it was withdrawn, compliance with the numerical effluent standards is not required when effluent concentrations in excess of the standards result entirely from influent contamination, evaporation, and/or the incidental addition of traces of materials not utilized or produced in the hydrostatic test activity that is the source of the waste.