

IEPA Log No.: **C-0177-13**  
CoE appl. #: **N/A**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 12, 2013**  
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 2, 2013**

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:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – 111 North Canal Street, Suite 600,  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7206

**Discharge Location:** Near Chicago in of Township , Range of the P.M. in Cook County.

**Name of Receiving Water:** Lake Michigan

**Project Description:** Proposed replacement and modification of 2600 feet of deteriorated step stone  
revetment on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (“applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for a Shoreline Storm Damage Reduction project of a portion of shoreline on Lake Michigan. The Applicant proposes to replace 2600 feet of deteriorated step-stone revetment at the Lake Michigan shoreline between Montrose Harbor and Irving Park Road. The proposed new structure consists of rubble mound constructed with a combination of new and recycled clean stone placed over the existing structure, which will be demolished in place. The rubble mound structure will extend between 30 and 60 feet lake ward of the toe of the existing structure. Backshore areas will be stabilized with sod and a new bike path/stone access road will be constructed. Other features of the project will include construction of a universal access point that will terminate the concrete step stone revetment and provide transition to the bike path and access stone road at the south end of the project, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access and resurfacing of the fishing pier at Montrose Harbor, and rehabilitation of the existing top two steps of the limestone revetment. The two-step limestone walls would be retained at the project to preserve the most important historic features of the existing revetment. The affected area will cover approximately 2.6 acres.

Antidegradation assessment materials were received from the applicant under a June 7, 2013 cover, Joint Application, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, ACOE Permit # Corps Project, IEPA Log # C-0177-13.

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

The receiving waters are located entirely within Lake Michigan basin. Waterbody Segment IL\_QLM-01 is listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List 2012 as impaired for fish consumption use; Mercury and polychlorinated byphenyls are given as the causes of this impairment. The list shows the lake fully supporting Aquatic Life, Public and Food Processing Water Supplies, Primary Contact Recreation, Secondary Contact and Aesthetic Quality. The lake shoreline covers 196 square miles.

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

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include possible increases in suspended solids locally along the shoreline from demolition of existing rubble and placement of new rubble mounds. Existing benthos directly beneath where the rubble is proposed to be placed would temporarily be covered. Fish eggs and larvae may be smothered by the proposed construction activity.

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

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. The revetment is being rebuilt in the same footprint of the defunct revetment. Biodegradable erosion control fabric, silt fencing

and native plantings would be implemented to minimize the temporary turbidity impacts with the proposed activity. Construction is scheduled to occur during low water levels. Fish and other free-swimming organisms will tend to avoid the construction area; the area will be used again by those fishes soon after construction ends.

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

The local community will benefit from this project as aesthetic value increase from the establishment of a new bike path at the shoreline and the preservation of the original two-step limestone revetment. The shoreline will be protected from potential future storm damage and allow for unencumbered public access to the bike path and ADA access to the fishing pier.

### **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. A no action plan was evaluated and concluded that continued deterioration of the revetment would eventually lead to failure and shoreline erosion at Lincoln Park would continue. A one-step limestone revetment preservation was evaluated and determined that some important historic features would be lost while no significant increase in shoreline protection would be achieved. The two-step limestone revetment preservation would be more expensive, however it was concluded the most important historic features would be retained and still provide the highest level of shoreline protection.

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

An Eco-CAT endangered species consultation with Illinois Department of Natural Resources was submitted on July 25, 2013. In an electronic response dated July 25, 2013, IDNR stated that the project was not likely to adversely impact protected resources and that the consultation was 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 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 impacted 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 enhance the shoreline protection. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.