

IEPA Log No.: **C-0508-13**  
CoE appl. #: **N/A**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **October 10, 2013**  
Public Notice Ending Date: **October 31, 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  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
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, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

**Discharge Location:** Along the Mississippi River between river miles 165 and 182 in Monroe and St. Clair Counties.

**Name of Receiving Water:** Mississippi River

**Project Description:** Dike and revetment restoration and the construction of a rootless dike.

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 an application received from 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 Thaddeus Faught at 217/782-3362.

TJF:0508-13PN.docx

## Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Mississippi River Miles 165-182 – St. Clair and Monroe Counties

IEPA Log #C-0508-13

COE Log# N/A

Contact: Eric Runkel (217) 558-2012

October 10, 2013

---

The United States Army Corps of Engineers – St. Louis District (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for a project along Carondelet Reach Miles 182.0-165.0 on the Mississippi River. The Applicant proposes to raise and restore the dike at river mile marker 181.7, refurbish the revetment between river mile marker 174.8-171.0 on the left descending bank and construct a 550 foot rootless dike at river mile marker 173.5-173.0.

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

The Mississippi River has a 7Q10 flow of 16,550 cfs at this location and is a General Use water. The Waterbody Segments IL\_J, IL\_J-02, IL\_J-36 are identified for this reach and all the segments are listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List 2012. Waterbody segment IL\_J is listed as fully supporting Aquatic Life, but impaired for Fish Consumption; Mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls are given as the causes of this impairment, and impaired for Public and Food Processing Water Supply; Manganese is given as the cause of this impairment. Secondary Contact and Aesthetic Quality were not assessed for this segment. Waterbody segment IL\_J-02 is listed as fully supporting Aquatic Life and Primary Contact Recreation, but impaired for Fish Consumption; Mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls are given as the causes of this impairment and impaired for Public and Food Processing Water Supply; Manganese is given as the cause of this impairment. Secondary Contact and Aesthetic Quality were not assessed for this segment. Waterbody segment IL\_J-36 is listed as fully supporting Aquatic Life, Primary Contact Recreation and Secondary Contact, but impaired for Fish Consumption; Mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls are given as the causes of this impairment and impaired for Public and Food Processing Water Supply; Manganese is given as the cause of this impairment. Aesthetic Quality was not assessed for this segment. The river at this location is an enhanced waterbody pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard. The river within the proposed project area is not listed as biologically significant and has not been given an integrity rating in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*.

### **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 placement of new stone. Existing benthos directly beneath where the rubble is proposed to be placed would temporarily be covered.

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

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. The dike at river mile marker 181.7 is being rebuilt in the same footprint of the eroded dike and restored to a +15 foot Low Water Reference Plan (LWRP). The shoreline rehabilitation between river mile marker 174.8-171.0 will restore approximately 14,100 linear feet of revetment to minimize erosion issues. The new dike at river mile marker 173.5-173.0 will be constructed as a 550 foot rootless dike to a +15 foot LWRP. All work will be conducted in the river using “C” stone brought in by barges and placed using heavy equipment. No grading will be performed. After the project is complete the aquatic life habitat and community structure is expected to return to pre-construction conditions.

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

If no action is taken the river bank and channel will continue to deteriorate and navigation in the river would become increasingly unsafe. Approximately 800,000 cubic yards of material has been dredged along this reach at the cost of over \$2.3 million during the last 5 years. The completion of this project should alleviate some of the repetitive dredging.

### **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 river bank and channel would eventually lead to increases in repetitive dredging, loss of property due to erosion for landowners and possible navigation hazards. Another alternative evaluated was to relocate the existing dike at river mile marker 181.7. This alternative was eliminated from further review because of the limited space available along this portion of the reach due to fleeting, other structures, and industry along the banklines not allowing adequate space to build an appropriate dike. The proposed new dike structure along river mile marker 173.5-173.0 was evaluated against numerous different configurations. It was concluded that this would be the best design to maximize size requirements, navigation needs and minimize environmental concerns.

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

An Eco-CAT endangered species information request to Illinois Department of Natural Resources was submitted on September 17, 2013. In an electronic response IDNR stated that the project #1404444 identified the Peregrine Falcon and Western Sand Darter as protected species potentially in the project area. The IDNR requested additional time to review the request. In a September 25, 2013 correspondence from Karen Miller (IDNR) to the Corps, it was determined that adverse effects from this project were unlikely and consultation was terminated for this project.

### **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 river bank protection, reduce repetitive dredging and promote safer navigation. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.