

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
Notice of Water Discharge Permit Public Hearing
NPDES Permit **IL0001759**

Wedron Silica Company
IL0001759
Public Hearing
Thursday, June 12, 2014
NPDES Hearing at 6:00 pm

Serena High School
Gymnasium
2283 North 3812th Road
Serena, Illinois

The Illinois EPA's Bureau of Water has prepared a draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Wedron Silica Company, 3450 East 2056th Road, Wedron, Illinois 60557 (LaSalle County).

Illinois EPA is holding this hearing for the purpose of taking comments on the draft permit prior to taking final action on the permit application. Issues relevant to this proceeding include the antidegradation analysis and the applicant's compliance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and Subtitle C and 35 Illinois Adm. Code. Because Illinois is mandated by state law to issue a permit if the applicant meets the requirements for obtaining a permit, those recommending denial of the permit application should be prepared to state the regulation that is the basis for their recommendation. This proceeding is not intended for or directly associated with the groundwater contamination investigation headed by USEPA. Those with groundwater contamination issues are urged to contact USEPA directly. Those with groundwater concerns should be prepared to explain how the groundwater issues relate to this NPDES permit process. Those requesting that Illinois EPA deny this permit should be prepared to cite the law or regulation that would be violated if a permit were to be issued and why the law or regulation would be violated.

The applicant proposes to expand the industrial silica mine by approximately 500 acres. Wedron Silica is engaged in the mining and processing of industrial silica sand. Overburden is mechanically removed, and the underlying rock is removed via hydraulic jetting and/or by the use of explosives. The rock is removed from the mine pits and is processed into slurry and pumped to the processing portions of the mine where it is washed, dried, coated, and packaged. Buck Creek receives the effluent from Outfall 002 and unnamed tributary of the Fox River receives the effluent from Outfall 004. Outfall 002 will increase from 1.44 MGD to 5.04 MGD and Outfall 004 will increase from 0.58 MGD to 1.44 MGD. The proposed effluent would be similar to other effluents from sand mining. The total suspended solids discharged by this facility will become part of the sediment load of the stream; the stream will experience an increase in loading due to the effluent discharge.

The NPDES permit and the public notice/fact sheet were public noticed on December 10, 2013. Documents for this proceeding can be viewed on the IEPA website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/2013/npdes-notices.html#wedron-silica-company>.

The draft permit, public notice/fact sheet which includes an antidegradation assessment, the regulations governing the conduct of the hearing and other documents can be reviewed and copied at the Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois; 217-782-0610. Please call ahead for an appointment.

Inquiries about the draft permit IL0001759 should be directed to Thad Faught, Permit Section, Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, 217-782-0610, or e-mail Thaddeus.Faught@illinois.gov.

The hearing will be held under the provisions of 35 Illinois Administrative Code 166, *Procedures for Permit and Closure Plan Hearings*, which can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-11865>.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with provisions of Sections 309.115 through 309.119. These documents can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-33358>

Requests for special needs interpreters must be made to the IEPA hearing officer by **May 19, 2014**.

The hearing record is a file containing the hearing transcript and written comments. **Written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by midnight, July 9, 2014, when the hearing record closes** (e-mails with written comments **must be** sent to epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov and should specify Wedron Silica NPDES or IL0001759 in the subject line). Email comments originating on third party systems or servers intended for submittal of multiple emails of the same or nearly the same content will not be accepted without prior approval from the hearing officer. The IEPA welcomes substantive written comments. Comments need not be notarized and should be sent to:

Hearing Officer Dean Studer, Mail; Code #5
Re: Wedron Silica NPDES
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P. O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
Phone 217-558-8280 TDD (hearing impaired) 217-782-9143

All other comments not pertaining to this permit can be emailed to the hearing officer at dean.studer@illinois.gov.