

IEPA Log No.: **C-0150-13**

CoE appl. #: **2013-0559**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **July 31, 2014**

Public Notice Ending Date: **August 29, 2014**

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: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702

Discharge Location: Section 16, T28N, R3W of the 3rd P.M. in Woodford County near Spring Bay

Name of Receiving Water: Goose Lake along the Illinois River

Project Description: Woodford State Fish and Wildlife Area Mud-to-Parks project.

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 Thaddeus Faught at 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Goose Lake – Woodford County

IEPA Log #C-0150-13

COE Log# 2013-0559 (Rock Island District)

Contact: Eric Runkel (217) 558-2012

July 31, 2014

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for impacts associated with a dredging project of the current boat launch at the Woodford County Conservation Area. Approximately 7,700 cubic yards of material will be mechanically dredged from within the north-side channel for approximately 1,500 feet from the existing boat ramp west into the main body of Goose Lake. An additional 15 feet wide by 600 feet long channel will be cut from the boat ramp to the east. Typical mechanical cuts will range between 3-4 feet, terminating at an elevation of 435.0 feet msl. Excavated sediments will be transported to a day-use area of the park and used to create “mounds” for hardwood mast tree planting. The proposed project is being funded by the Mud-to-Parks program which encourages beneficial reuse of excavated sediment within a publically owned park.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The boat access channel is a General Use water and has no Segment Code. The channel was constructed in 2000 and is hydraulically connected to the Illinois River. The channel is within the Illinois River 100-Year floodplain.

The Illinois River (Segment Code IL_D-30), is considered a General Use water and has a 3,279 cfs 7Q10 flow at this location. The segment is listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List 2014 as impaired for Fish Consumption use; Mercury and polychlorinated byphenyls are given as the causes of this impairment, Public and Food Processing Water Supplies use; total dissolved solids is given as the cause of this impairment and Primary Contact Recreation use; fecal coliform is given as the cause of this impairment. Aquatic Life use and Aesthetic Quality use are listed as fully supported. Secondary Contact has not been assessed. The segment 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*. The segment is not enhanced in regards to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

Approximately 3.4 acres wetlands have been identified in the proposed excavation placement area within the park. This is a General Use water with a 0 cfs flow. The vegetation within the proposed sediment placement area was deemed of “low” floristic quality (FQI 11.1 and mean C of 2.41). Although classified as a wetland, the proposed placement area is currently maintained as an open lawn space via regular mowing and available for day-use and camping. The proposed placement area is naturally subject to periodic flooding that is inundated annually by one to four feet of water for extended periods of time.

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 dredge material. Existing benthos directly beneath where the

dredging is proposed would be permanently removed. Fish eggs and larvae may be smothered by the proposed dredging activity.

The proposed project will permanently alter approximately 3.4 acres of wetlands in the placement area.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. 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. The benthic habitat to be dredged will be disturbed but should revert to its previous condition soon after dredging. IDNR will maintain ownership of the site; and will be responsible for management activities. Annual monitoring of the restoration area will be conducted by IDNR personnel to evaluate the initial establishment and overall success of the hardwood trees through time. A detail restoration plan was provided in the application.

IDNR is considering the proposed placement area as a “beneficial reuse” of the approximately 7,700 cubic yards of sediments by creating a habitat conducive to establishing bottomland hardwoods in the park. The project proposes to create “mounds” of soil slightly higher in elevation than the existing surface to provide an environment more conducive to the establishment of desirable hardwoods species while maintaining wetland hydrology. Final elevation of the dredged sediment “mounds” will not exceed an elevation of 447.5 feet msl in order to maintain adequate wetland hydrology within the bottomland area. The proposed placement area is adjacent to an existing tree planting/hardwood area. A detailed restoration plan for this project was provided in the application. This project is part of the “Mud to Parks” program. The objective of the Mud to Parks program is to encourage the removal of sediment from Illinois’ waterways and reuse it for valuable projects that would create habitat, benefit the public and have long sustainability. IDNR will maintain ownership of the site; and will be responsible for management activities.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

This project will allow the dredging of the channel in order to maintain the water depth necessary for recreational activities. Establishment of a bottomland forested wetland will produce a more desirable wildlife habitat.

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

The dredging of the channel will follow guidelines set forth by the Agency and USACE. The least intrusive alternative would be to not dredge the channel. This is not an acceptable alternative given that current sedimentation negates necessary water depth for recreational activities.

An alternative placement area was included in the analysis. A site at the Marshall State Fish and Wildlife Area was evaluated as a sediment placement area. The amount of sediment dredged from the channel would have to be reduced to offset the additional cost of hauling the material 15 miles to the alternate site. The transportation would also have a negative effect on local roads and structures between the two sites. This alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

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

An internal Comprehensive Environmental Review Process (CERP) was completed by IDNR and the project was approved on August 3, 2011. IDNR-Office of Water Resources (ORW) issued a permit to dredge on October 7, 2011.

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 improve use of the park. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.