

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
Notice of Application and Public Hearing for 401 Water Quality Certification

Northern Illinois Hydropower, L.L.C.
Will County

Public Hearing

Wednesday, July 2, 2014
401 Water Quality Certification Hearing 6:30pm

Weitendorf Agricultural Center
Joliet Junior College
17840 Laraway Road
Joliet, Illinois 60433

The IEPA Bureau of Water has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification (Log. No. C-0408-08). The address of the applicant is Northern Illinois Hydropower, L.L.C., 801 Oakland Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

The applicant has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for impacts associated with the construction of a new powerhouse at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam at Des Plaines River mile 286 in Will County, Illinois. The applicant is proposing to install four 2,000mm turbine/generator units in the power station. The design will comply with requirements set forth by Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for a two inch trash rack spacing, an approach velocity of 1.5 feet per second, and a range of flows that are in excess of the first 1000 cubic feet per second (cfs) available in the Des Plaines River. The project will be operated as a "run of the river" facility and pose no effect to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) operation of the lock and dam. The powerhouse will be controlled with an automated system that would automatically start up, run, and shut down the turbines. The automated system would allow the USACE to modify hydroelectric operations instantaneously in response to emergencies related to lock operation or flood control. All materials will be removed from the floodway at the end of the project.

The IEPA has made a tentative determination to issue the Section 401 water quality certification in accordance with 35 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC) Subtitle C (*Water Pollution*), the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and the federal Clean Water Act. The 401 certification process is governed by the provisions of 35 IAC Part 395, *Procedures and Criteria for Certification of Applications for Federal Permits or Licenses for Discharges into Waters of the State*, which can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-12064/>

Inquiries about the certification should be directed to Engineer Keith Runge, IEPA Division of Water Pollution Control, Permit Section, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, phone 217-782-3362, or e-mail keith.runge@illinois.gov. The water quality certification application is available for examination at the IEPA offices in Springfield. The public notice/fact sheet and antidegradation assessment can be viewed on the IEPA website: <http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/2014/northern-il-hydropower/index.pdf>

Requests for special needs interpreters must be made to the IEPA hearing officer by **June 10, 2014**. The hearing will be held under the provisions of 35 IAC Part 164, *Procedures for Informational Public Hearings*, which can be obtained online at <http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-11864/>.

The hearing record is a file containing the hearing transcript and written comments. **Written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by midnight, August 1, 2014, when the hearing record closes** (e-mails comments **must be sent to** epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov and must specify **Northern IL Hydropower 401** or **C-0408-08** 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 are to be sent to:

Hearing Officer Dean Studer
Northern Illinois Hydropower 401
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P. O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
Phone 217-558-8280

E-mail: epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov
TDD (hearing impaired) 217-782-9143

Questions regarding the hearing process for this proceeding and not intended to be included in the hearing record can be emailed to the hearing officer at dean.studer@illinois.gov.