IEPA Log No.: **C-0049-15**
CoE appl. #: **CEMVR-OD-P-2015-207**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **June 19, 2015**
Public Notice Ending Date: **July 10, 2015**

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: Illinois DOT, Division of Highways/Region 3/District 4 – 401 Main Street, Peoria, IL 61602-1111

Discharge Location: Near Macomb in Sections 3 & 4 of Township 5N, Sections 13, 14, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, and 33 of Township 6N, Range 3W of the 4th P.M. in McDonough County.

Name of Receiving Water: East Fork Lamoine River, Spring Creek, unnamed tributaries and unnamed wetlands

Project Description: Proposed construction of a 6.5 mile long four-lane highway northwest of Macomb.

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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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
For Illinois DOT, Division of Highways/Region 3/District 4
IEPA Log No. C-0049-15
COE Log No. CEMVR-OD-P-2015-207
Contact: Eric Runkel (217) 558-2012
Public Notice Start Date: June 19, 2015

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), District 4 ("Applicant") is applying for a 401 water quality certification for impacts associated with construction of the northwest corridor four-lane bypass highway approximately 6.5 miles around Macomb in McDonough County, Illinois. The applicant proposes to complete an access-controlled, four-lane highway from existing US 136, north to US 67. The applicant proposes to permanently impact approximately 1.46 acres of wetlands. Four intermittent and ephemeral streams crossings will result in 800 feet of temporary impacts and 1,138 feet of permanent impacts. Mitigation for permanent stream impacts will occur in nearby Spring Creek on a 1:1 basis and will consist of stream bank stabilization and habitat creation and restoration. Bridge construction over the East Fork of La Moine River will permanently impact 0.5 acres of riverbank and riverbed. Approximately 1.25 acres of a manmade lake bed will be permanently be impacted by this project.

Antidegradation assessment materials were received from the applicant under a February 9, 2015 cover, Joint Permit Application, US67/IL 336 Northwest Corridor Bypass, ACOE Permit # CEMVR-OD-P-2015-207, IEPA Log # C-0049-15, received February 17, 2015 from Kensil Garnett, Acting Deputy Director of Highways, Peoria, Illinois and document received on June 17, 2015 titled Antidegradation Assessment for 401 Water Quality Certification.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The proposed project would include 5 stream crossings of Waters of the United States (WOUS). Four unnamed intermittent and ephemeral stream crossings will result in 2,190 feet of temporary impacts and 1,138 feet of permanent impacts. These four unnamed stream segments (No Segment Codes) of the East Fork La Moine River (Segment Code IL_DGL-04) are considered General Use waters and have zero cfs 7Q10 flows. These segments have not been listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report or 303(d) List 2014. Using the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication Integrating Multiple Taxa in Biological Stream Rating System, the segments are not listed as biologically significant streams nor have they received an integrity rating. The segments are not enhanced water bodies pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

In central Illinois, streams with less than three square miles of watershed are characterized as 7Q1.1 zero flow streams and are therefore expected to have at least seven continuous days of zero flow nine out of ten years. Since the watersheds for the unnamed tributaries did not exceed this threshold, the Agency did not require the applicant complete additional characterization (biological, chemical or physical) of the water body.

The fifth stream segment crossing is a proposed bridge over the East Fork of La Moine River (Segment Code IL_DGL-04), which is a General Use water with zero 7Q10 flow. The segment is listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List 2014 as fully supportive for Aquatic Life use and Public and Food Processing Water Supply use. Fish Consumption, Primary Contact Recreation and Secondary Contact have not been evaluated. The segment is not enhanced water body pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard. Using the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream*

Rating System, the segment is not listed as biologically significant stream, however it has received a "C" integrity rating and a "C" diversity rating.

Proposed stream mitigation activities will occur in Spring Creek (Segment Code IL_DGLA-01), which is a General Use water with zero 7Q10 flow. The segment has not been assessed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report or 303(d) List 2014. Using the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication Integrating Multiple Taxa in Biological Stream Rating System, the segment is not listed as biologically significant streams, nor received an integrity rating or diversity rating. The segment is an enhanced water body pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

The man-made reservoir (commonly referred to as Deer Ridge Lake - no Segment Code) is a General Use water. The reservoir is not listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report or 303(d) List 2014. Deer Ridge Lake is a man-made lake built in 2000 and is approximately six hectares (15 acres) in size. This lake is surrounded by a planned residential development and is actively used for water sports.

The wetlands to be impacted are considered a General Use waters with zero cfs 7Q10 flows. Site ID# W58 (2.50 acres forested wetland) has a FQI of 14.1 and a mean C value of 3.2. Site ID# W7A (0.90 acres floodplain forest/sedge meadow wetland) has a FQI of 21.8 and a mean C value of 3.1. Site W6A (0.59 acres wet meadow) has a FQI of 14.6 and a mean C Value of 3.2. Unavoidable wetland impacts from the project will total approximately 1.45 acres (W58-0.13 acres, W7A-0.90 acres and W6A-0.42 acres).

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

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in suspended solids during the construction of the project. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in suspended solids. The building of the bypass will increase the impervious surface. Manganese and Chloride will increase due to the additional traffic through the area. Manganese is a highway runoff pollutant that originates from moving engine parts. Deicing agents, such as sodium chloride and calcium chloride, singularly or in combination, are added to roadway surfaces in order to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement.

The East Fork of the La Moine River will be bridged and will not have any temporary impact because no work is proposed in the river and no piers will be placed in the river. There will be a total of 0.5 acre of rip rap placed in the river.

Approximately 1.25 acres of Deer Ridge Lake will be permanently filled to build a causeway across the lake.

Aquatic life uses in the portions of the streams/river that will be disturbed during construction may be negatively impacted, but in time, they will recover and support approximately the same community structure as is now found in the streams/river. The project will eliminate the current habitat from the permanently impacted wetlands.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in suspended solids and prevent further impact to the stream. Construction for the proposed project will occur during a period of low flow to further minimize any impact.

The East Fork of the La Moine River watershed has a TMDL of 0.15 mg/L for Manganese. The applicant has calculated the potential increase loading from the additional traffic and determined increases per storm event should average 0.054 mg/L for Manganese. During operation of the bypass the foreslopes and backslopes will be grassed ditches planted with suitable vegetation to reduce erosion. Approximately 244 acres of grassed waterways will reduce suspended solids and associated manganese in runoff under wet hydrologic conditions. The applicant stated:

> *"The combination of the 244 acres of vegetated filter strips and grassed waterway will offset the minor amount of manganese the bypass creates allowing for no net increase of manganese into the East Fork of the La Moine River watershed."*

Chloride loading will increase into the waterways as a result of the project. IDOT will utilize Best Management Practices (BMP) in an effort to minimize impacts to the environment including, but not limited to; calibrated spreaders with ground speed sensors, training programs for drivers and handlers to improve the efficiency of application, and subscription to weather services that provide local conditions. The applicant stated:

> *"The overall impact of the added chloride from the new bypass will be minimal, with concentrations expected not to be discernibly different from those now present under winter storm circumstances."*

Wetland mitigation is proposed to occur within the project ACOE watershed through replacement of wetlands. IDOT has purchased a 41.2 acre site called the Hancock County Wetland site near the La Moine River for wetland mitigation as a result of wetland impacts associated with the construction of the Macomb four-lane bypass project. The wetland mitigation area is approximately 6 miles west of the project site. Site ID# W58 (0.13 acres forested wetland impact) will be mitigated at a ratio of 2.0:1. Site ID# W7A (0.90 acres floodplain forest/sedge meadow wetland impact) will be mitigated at a ratio of 5.1:1. Site W6A (0.42 acres wet meadow impact) will be mitigated at a ratio of 2.0:1. Mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts from the project will total approximately 5.69 acres.

Stream mitigation is proposed to occur within areas specified by the applicant as habitat restoration areas adjacent to the project corridor. These areas include over 9000 lineal feet of Spring Creek. The applicant proposes to mitigate stream losses on a 1:1 basis by incorporating stream bank stabilization, pool and riffle construction, fish habitat construction and other appropriate techniques.

The applicant has proposed to mitigate the loss of open water from Deer Ridge Lake with wetland bank acreage at the Hancock County Wetland site. Compensatory mitigation is anticipated to be at a 1:1 ratio. The applicant is also proposing to utilize excess property remnants for habitat restoration projects along the Macomb bypass corridor with the development of additional open water impoundments.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Upgrading roads within the Western Illinois region may encourage business growth and job creation. Additionally, the proposed highway project should reduce traffic congestion, increase safety for city traffic by establishing a through-traffic alternative, and reduce travel times for local and regional driver.

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

No-Build Alternative

Under the "No-Build Alternative", the proposed improvement will not be constructed. The "No-Build Alternative" denotes that only minor improvements, such as safety improvements and normal maintenance, would be made to the existing road and intersection areas. This alternative will not improve regional connectivity, nor will it promote economic development. The "No-Build Alternative" does not satisfy the project's purpose and need. Therefore, this alternative is not considered an adequate solution to meet the existing and anticipated transportation needs of the corridor.

Build Alternatives

Additional "Build Alternatives" were developed for the project:

Thirty alignments were originally developed and screened during the course of the study for the bypass project. Screening of the alternatives was a collaborative process involving public agencies, local agencies, business leaders, neighborhood groups, and interested citizens. All non-preferred alternatives were evaluated and found not to meet the project's purpose and need. The preferred alternative was selected based on impacts to social/economic, agriculture, cultural, air quality, noise, energy, natural resources, water quality, floodplain, wetlands, hazardous and non-hazardous waste, visual, secondary and cumulative impacts.

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

An internal Biological Resources Review was completed on May 11, 2015 by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and concluded that adverse effects to threatened and/or endangered species are unlikely from the 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 receiving 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 benefit the area at large by providing improved transportation, public safety, and support economic development. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.