

IEPA Log No.: **C-0429-12**
CoE appl. #: **n/a**

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: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District – 231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 606004

Discharge Location: Near Highland Park in Section 25 and 31 of Township 43N, Range 12E of the 3rd P.M. in Lake County.

Name of Receiving Water: Lake Michigan and unnamed ravine tributary

Project Description: Proposed habitat restoration and breakwater protected beach system.

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District
IEPA Log No. C-0429-12
COE Log No. n/a
Contact: Eric Runkel (217) 558-2012
Public Notice Start Date: June 19, 2015

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (“applicant”) has re-applied for a Section 401 water quality certification for an Ecosystem Restoration project along a portion of shoreline on Lake Michigan. The Applicant proposes to restore degraded areas to historic conditions and protect adjacent areas that are currently considered intact and high quality at the north end of Rosewood Park in Highland Park, Illinois. The project was originally granted a 401 certification in 2013. The scope of the work has been modified and a new 401 certification was deemed appropriate because of the significant changes to the original project. The newly proposed project will include restoration of a ravine stream, removal of degraded control structures (concrete weirs), constructing cobble riffles, regrading the banks, removing steel groins, planting native vegetation, adding breakwaters nearshore and renourishing the beach area with sand. The area proposed for restoration is approximately 6.1 acres and consists of one ravine, the bluff along the coastline, the savanna habitat atop the bluff, the dune and beach habitat, and the littoral zone of Lake Michigan. The site has been heavily impacted by anthropogenic activity due to increased urbanization.

Antidegradation assessment materials were received from the applicant under a July 2, 2013 cover, Joint Application, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, ACOE Permit # Corps Project, IEPA Log # C-0429-12, IDNR SMRCA #1400290, October 16, 2012, Highland Park, IL and Rosewood Park Coastal Restoration Section 404(B)(1) Evaluation, June 12, 2015.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The receiving waters are located entirely within Lake Michigan basin. Waterbody Segment IL_QLM-01 is listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List draft 2014 as impaired for fish consumption use; Mercury and polychlorinated byphenyls are given as the causes of this impairment. The list shows the lake fully supporting Aquatic Life, Public and Food Processing Water Supplies, Primary Contact Recreation, Secondary Contact and Aesthetic Quality. The lake shoreline covers 196 square miles.

The ravine is not listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List draft 2014 since it has not been assessed. The applicant refers to the ravine as “Ravine 3L”.

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 (“SS”) locally along the shoreline from demolition of a 220 foot box culvert, asphalt walkway, and an asphalt parking lot and with the construction of the breakwaters (beach cells) and removal of the groins. Approximately 0.8 acres of Lake Michigan bottom will be eliminated by the placement of four breakwaters approximately 150 yards lakeward of the observed high water at Rosewood Park. Approximately 520 linear feet of existing steel sheetpile groin would be removed and 425 linear feet of steel sheetpile groin would be added amongst the

cross-section of each breakwater in order to reduce wave transmission and loss of beach fill. Approximately 2.5 acres of beach area will be affected by beach nourishment. Approximately 0.22 acres of stream channel will be affected by the restoration project. Existing benthos directly beneath where the riprap/boulder/cobble is proposed to be placed would temporarily be covered. Fish eggs and larvae may be smothered by the proposed fill activity.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. The construction of the breakwaters will allow natural lacustrine processes to occur while preventing further erosion of beach, dune, and bluff habitat. The breakwater will also encourage benthic invertebrate assemblage through enhancement of riverine hydraulics, with the potential to greatly increase species richness. The construction activities of the breakwater will occur during non-reproductive or rearing seasons of aquatic life. Construction of boulder/cobble riffles within the ravine mouth will be engineered to encourage runoff flows toward the center of the stream, creating high quality riffle/pool complexes and reducing bank erosion to a natural state. The proposed addition of 64,800 cy of sand will replenish the shoreline. Rebuilding the parking lot will utilize porous concrete material to curtail runoff and promote infiltration into the ground, reducing the amount of pollutants being carried to the lake and ravine stream, and aid with reducing peak runoff velocity and volume. Removal of the asphalt walkway and replacement with a natural boardwalk would reduce the risk of contaminants leaching into the surrounding environment. Gabion baskets will be installed adjacent to the parking lot and buried in the sand onsite in order to stabilize the southern edge of the lot. Approximately 6.1 acres of the project area would be eradicated of invasive and non-native vegetation. Restoration of native plant communities will include 2.1 acres of lake bluff, 2.1 acres of ravine, and 1.9 acres of savanna habitat.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The local community will benefit from this project as aesthetic value increase from the restoration of the ravine stream and lacustrine habitat establishment at the shoreline.

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. Only beneficial effects on aquatic biota are expected from this restoration.

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

The Applicant completed an Eco-CAT endangered species consultation with Illinois Department of Natural Resources. In a letter dated July 11, 2013, IDNR replied that the project was not likely to adversely impact protected resources and that consultation was terminated.

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 enhance the biota and natural habitats. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.