

IEPA Log No.: **C-0237-15**
CoE appl. #: **2015-271**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **June 5, 2015**
Public Notice Ending Date: **June 26, 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
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: Vermilion County Highway Department, 2732 Batestown Road, Oakwood, IL 61858

Discharge Location: Section 5, T21N, R11W of the 2nd P.M. in Vermilion County within Alvin

Name of Receiving Water: Tributary to the North Fork Vermilion River

Project Description: Improvements to Chicago Street.

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

Vermilion County Highway Department – Unnamed Tributary of North Fork Vermilion River – Vermillion County

IEPA Log No. C-0237-15

COE Log# LRL-2015-271

Contact: Eric Runkel (217) 558-2012

June 5, 2015

The Vermilion County Highway Department (Applicant) is applying for a 401 water quality certification for impacts associated with the improvements to approximately 1.27 miles of roadway on County Highway 3 (Chicago Street) located in the Village of Alvin, Vermilion County, Illinois. The project will include riprap bank stabilization, culvert removal, and a culvert extension in an unnamed tributary of North Fork Vermilion River. An existing 10'x 5'-30' concrete box culvert will be replaced at the same location with a longer 10'x 5'-52' precast concrete box culvert. No relocation of the stream channel is necessary and existing stream sinuosity will be replicated. Bank stabilization with riprap will be utilized for a total of 623 linear feet and embankment slope will be constructed at a 1.5:1 (H:V) to help alleviate erosion. Guardrails will be placed along the roadway to protect traffic from entering the stream.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The unnamed tributary (no Segment Code) of North Fork Vermilion River is classified as General Use water body with zero 7Q10 flow. The watershed for the unnamed tributary at the proposed project area is approximately 1.41 miles. The unnamed tributary has not been assessed under the Agency's 305(b)/303(d) program and has not been given an integrity rating nor been listed as biologically significant in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources publication Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System. The water body is not enhanced in regards to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

In central Illinois, streams with less than three square miles of watershed are characterized as 7Q10 zero flow streams and are therefore expected to have at least seven continuous days of zero flow nine out of ten years. Since the watershed for the unnamed tributary did not exceed this threshold, the Agency did not require the applicant complete additional characterization (biological, chemical or physical) of the water body.

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

A total of 623 linear feet of stream will be impacted by the proposed activity. No wetlands were identified within the project area. Pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some suspended solids in the downstream reach during the bank stabilization of the stream channel.

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. 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 new culvert construction will replace an existing culvert, lengthening the current stream conveyance. No adverse impacts to streams would occur as all water quality standards are expected to be met in the receiving waters.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The new road profile is necessary to improve vehicular safety and allow for the installation of bank stabilization to help alleviate persistent erosion at this location.

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

No Action

Under this alternative, the channel would continue to degrade with erosion of the roadway embankment and potential loss of the east shoulder. Additional right-of-way would have to be purchased from property owners on the west side of County Highway 3 to move the roadway further away from the stream. Therefore this alternative was eliminated.

Partial Bank Stabilization

This alternative would not diminish the need for future slope repair along the entire section of roadway. Continual repair would be necessary to ensure the integrity of the existing roadway.

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 15, 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 the antidegradation review summary was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity would result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all existing uses of the receiving streams would 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 would enhance the stream and benefit the community at large by providing a safer roadway and bank stabilization at this location. Comments received during the 401 certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.