

IEPA Log No.: **C-0338-14**
CoE appl. #: **2011-207**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 17, 2016**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 7, 2016**

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: Metro East Park and Recreation District, 104 United Drive,
Collinsville, IL 62234

Discharge Location: Sections 18 and 19, T3N, R7W of the 3rd P.M. and Sections 24, 25 and 36, T3N,
R8W of the 3rd P.M. in Madison County. Sections 1 and 12, T2N, R8W of the 3rd P.M. and Sections 18,
T2N, R7W of the 3rd P.M. in St. Clair County between Troy and O'Fallon.

Name of Receiving Water: Ogles Creek, Unnamed Tributaries of Canteen Creek and Unnamed
Wetlands.

Project Description: Scott-Troy Bike Trail 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.

Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment

Metro East Park and Recreational District – Ogles Creek, Unnamed Tributaries of Canteen Creek and Unnamed Wetlands – Madison and St. Clair Counties

IEPA Log # C-0338-14

COE # MVS-2011-207 / P-2883

Contact: Scott Twait; 217/558-2012

August 17, 2016

The Metro East Park and Recreation District has proposed a bike trail along 6.75 miles of abandoned railroad between the cities of Troy and O'Fallon, Illinois. The new bike trail will be identified as the Scott-Troy Bike Trail. The trail would be part of an overall trail network which would connect the Madison County Bikeway System, to the north and eventually extend the MetroBikeLink at the Shiloh/Scott AFB Metrolink Station.

The impacts will be completed through the re-establishment of drainage ditches alongside the bike trail both during and after construction. Additional impacts include bridge maintenance/repair work at three crossings of tributaries to Canteen Creek and the construction of a new pedestrian/bike bridge over Ogles Creek. Due to the alterations to the former railroad right-of-way, sections of the railway have become inundated with water which has created man-made wetlands. The project would impact jurisdictional wetlands at thirteen separate locations.

The proposed Scott-Troy Bike Trail would impact 3.63 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. A wetland delineation was conducted by Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS). INHS identified the impacted wetlands as Sites: 1, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, and 23. The wetlands are linear in nature and are mostly contained within the railroad right-of-way. Twelve of the impacted wetlands were identified as forested wetland and one site has been classified as marsh. Based on the Floristic Quality Index (FQI) assessed by INHS for the thirteen impacted wetland sites, all received a fair to poor natural quality and fair to poor wildlife habitat quality. Based on the Wetland Impact Evaluation (WIE) required by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the requirements of IDOT's Wetland Action Plan and Interagency Wetland Policy Act, 10.48 acres of compensatory wetland mitigation is required for the project impacts to 3.63 acres of wetland. This is an overall mitigation ratio of 2.89:1. For the wetlands impacted in Madison County, the applicant proposes to purchase credit (3.58 acres) from the approved Madison County Wetland Mitigation Bank. For the wetlands impacted in St. Clair County, the applicant proposed to purchase credit (6.9 acres) from the approved MetroBike Mitigation Site.

Minor stream impacts will occur within the three unnamed tributaries of Canteen Creek due to maintenance/repair and erosion protection activities on existing railroad crossing structures. Additionally, a new span bridge will be constructed over Ogles Creek, which includes impacts from the installation of the bridge abutments and placement of graded stone for erosion protection.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The subject facility proposes bridge maintenance/repair work at three crossings at unnamed tributaries to Canteen Creek at a point where 0 cfs of flow exists upstream of the outfall during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. The unnamed tributaries to Canteen Creek are classified as a General Use Water. The unnamed tributaries to Canteen Creek are not listed as a biologically significant streams in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor are they given an integrity ratings in that document. The unnamed tributaries to Canteen Creek, tributary to Waterbody Segment, JNA-02, are not listed on the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List since they have not been assessed. The unnamed tributaries to Canteen Creek are not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

The Wetland determination report gives a watershed size of < 1.0, 1.6, and < 1.0 square miles at the crossings on the unnamed tributaries to Canteen Creek. According to the Illinois State Water Survey, the unnamed tributaries to Canteen Creek in the area of the bridge maintenance/repair work are likely to be 7Q1.1 zero flow streams. In

this region of Illinois, 7Q1.1 zero flow streams are streams with a watershed area of 5 square miles or less. These streams will exhibit no flow for at least a continuous seven day period nine out of ten years. Aquatic life communities in these headwater streams are tolerant of the effects of drying. Depending on the rainfall received before biological surveys, either a very limited aquatic life community, or no community at all would be found. Given this flow regime, no additional biological characterization is required.

The applicant proposes the construction of a new pedestrian/bike bridge over Ogles Creek at a point where 1.0 cfs of flow exists upstream of the outfall during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Ogles Creek is classified as a General Use Water. Ogles Creek is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor is it given an integrity rating in that document. Ogles Creek, Waterbody Segment, ODI-CE-C3, is not listed on the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List. Aquatic life use is fully supported. This segment of the Ogles Creek is not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

The impacted wetlands have been identified and listed with the size of the wetland, the area of impact, floristic quality index (FQI), and mean coefficient of conservatism (mean C):

Site No.	NWI code	Community Type	Area (ac.)	Area of Impact (ac.)	FQI	Mean C
1	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.02	0.01	7.8	2.3
3	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.21	0.21	8.8	2.3
10	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.07	0.07	10.2	2.0
11	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.75	0.75	11.7	2.2
12	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.86	0.86	12.9	2.7
13	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.09	0.09	10.0	2.5
14	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.41	0.41	15.0	2.7
15	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.31	0.31	7.8	2.2
16	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.11	0.11	12.7	2.8
17	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.47	0.47	10.8	2.5
18	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.55	0.26	9.2	2.2
22	Upland	Forested Wetland	0.06	0.06	8.5	2.2
23	Upland	Marsh	0.10	0.02	8.1	1.7

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

The stream impacts are associated with bridge maintenance/repair work at three crossings of tributaries to Canteen Creek and the construction of a new pedestrian/bike bridge over Ogles Creek. The stream impacts are short-term, temporary increases in pollutant loading and will not result in long term or permanent impacts to existing uses including aquatic life habitat

Permanent wetland impacts will be associated with 3.61 acres of forested wetland and 0.02 acres of marsh. For the wetlands impacted in Madison County, the applicant proposes to purchase credit (3.58 acres) from the approved Madison County Wetland Mitigation Bank. For the wetlands impacted in St. Clair County, the applicant proposed to purchase credit (6.9 acres) from the approved MetroBike Mitigation Site. This is an overall mitigation ratio of 2.89:1.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. The applicant will purchase wetland credits for the impacts to jurisdictional wetlands.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Bicyclists have become frequent users of streets and highways in the region. As such, the applicant has planned the construction of an off-road trail to provide an ideal alternative for this activity to continue a safe distance from vehicular traffic while still providing access to many facilities. The intent of the Scott-Troy Bike Trail is to further enhance the Metro bike trail network while providing safe and reliable access for bicyclists to surrounding communities.

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

The applicant evaluated a no-build alternative. However, a no-build alternative would not achieve the purpose and need to construct a 6.75-mile bike trail between the cities of Troy and O'Fallon in Illinois. Also as noted, this trail is part of a planned overall trail network which will connect to the Madison County Bikeway System on the north and eventually extend to the MetroBikeLink at the Shiloh/Scott AFB Metrolink Station south of the City of O'Fallon.

As in many locations across St. Clair and Madison County the proposed trail will utilize a former railroad alignment to construct a bike trail and to make use of all appurtenances previously constructed in connection with the railroad corridor including the existing drainage ditches, culverts, etc. Such corridors are typically very narrow and only allow for constructing the trail along the former rail bed.

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

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) reviewed the proposed project for compliance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 on April 21, 2016 and determined that the proposed improvement is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of any critical habitat. Consultation under Part 1075 was terminated on April 21, 2016.

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 assessment 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 community at large by further enhancing the Metro bike trail network while providing safe and reliable access for bicyclists to surrounding communities. Comments received during the 401 water quality certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.