

IEPA Log No.: **C-0086-17**
CoE appl. #: **2016-966**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **October 23, 2017**
Public Notice Ending Date: **November 13, 2017**

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: Consolidated Grain and Barge Company, 800 Market Street, Suite 1500A, St. Louis, MO 63101

Discharge Location: Section 33, T2N, R10W of the 3rd P.M. in St. Clair County within Cahokia

Name of Receiving Water: Unnamed Wetland.

Project Description: Cahokia Ring Storage.

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
Consolidated Grain & Barge Company – Unnamed Wetland – St. Clair County
IEPA Log# C-0086-17
COE # 2016-966
Contact: Scott Twait (217) 558-2012
October 23, 2017**

The applicant is proposing to construct a new grain storage facility, north of Cahokia, Illinois near the Mississippi River.

The proposed grain storage facility will impact 0.79-acres of jurisdiction emergent wetlands. 0.79-acres of compensatory wetland mitigation is required for the project impacts to 0.79- acres of wetland for an overall mitigation ratio of 1:1. The applicant is proposing to purchase 0.79-acres of credits from the Eberhardt Wetlands Bank in Granite City, Illinois.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The applicant is proposing to impact 0.79-acres emergent wetland as a result of grading and fill activities. The mitigation ratio is set at 1:1 due to the predominant monoculture of *Ambrosia trifida* L. (Giant Ragweed) and historical disturbance of the site.

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

This construction will necessitate the unavoidable permanent impact of 0.79-acre of emergent wetland under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction. The impacts to the wetlands are due to the grading and fill activities associated with the construction of the grain storage facility.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The applicant is proposing to mitigate through the purchase of 0.79 acres of credit from the Eberhardt Wetlands Bank in Granite City, Illinois.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The proposed project is to provide additional grain storage area.

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

The applicant evaluated avoidance and minimization of impacts to the wetlands. The applicant evaluated moving the storage area, on-site, in order to minimize wetland impacts.

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

On August 14, 2017, the IDNR EcoCAT web-based tool was used and indicated that there were no endangered/threatened species present in the vicinity of the discharge. The IDNR EcoCAT web-based tool terminated the consultation.

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 draft permit 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 stream 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 providing additional grain storage area. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.