

IEPA Log No.: **C-0125-16**
CoE appl. #: **2016-00187**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **May 26, 2017**
Public Notice Ending Date: **June 16, 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: Lake Bluff Park District, 355 West Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Discharge Location: Section 21, T44N, R12E of the 3rd P.M. in Lake County within Lake Bluff

Name of Receiving Water: Lake Michigan.

Project Description: Quarystone breakwater maintenance and sand nourishment.

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
Lake Bluff Park District – Lake Michigan – Lake County
IEPA Log# C-0125-16
COE # 2016-00187
Contact: Scott Twait (217) 558-2012
May 26, 2017

The applicant has already completed a portion of the work and is leaving the work completed in place, so the review of the plans are after-the-fact for a portion of the proposed work.

The applicant is proposing to perform maintenance on the breakwater protected beach and for 10 years of sand nourishment along Lake Michigan at Sunrise Park Beach in Lake Bluff. The work would include resetting armorstone on the existing structures, adding armorstone to return structures to the original specifications, adding new armorstone along an existing steel groin, and beach nourishment, as necessary.

The existing groin has deteriorated and holes have formed in portions of the wall. Stone groin protection is proposed to cover these holes. The groin protection would begin 50 feet from the end of the existing groin and extend for 50 feet to the east. The purpose of the groin protection is to maintain the function of the existing groin, which helps to retain a beach. Total new fill for this work will cover less than 0.01 acres.

Miscellaneous stone and concrete chunks would be removed for the safety of the swimmers. Some of the existing breakwater will be rebuilt to match the original specifications. The other breakwater will have loose stone reset to original specifications.

Sand nourishment of up to 1000 tons annually is proposed. The majority of the sand is anticipated to be placed in the two beach cells north of the existing parking lot. The purpose of the nourishment is to provide for a safe slope for swimmers and to provide sand cover over the clay lakebed to reduce the potential for lakebed downcutting.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Lake Michigan has 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Lake Michigan is classified as a Lake Michigan Basin Use Water. Lake Michigan 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. Lake Michigan, Waterbody Segment, QLM-01, is listed on the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for fish consumption use with potential causes given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls and aesthetic quality use with potential cause given as phosphorus. Aquatic life, public and food processing water supply, primary recreational contact, and secondary contact uses are fully supported. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report has been prepared and approved by the USEPA for 51 beaches along Illinois' Lake Michigan shoreline to address Primary Contact Use Recreation impairments due to excess bacteria. The proposed activity occurs within an area identified by the report "Shoreline Segments in Suburban Cook County, Illinois" May 15, 2013 as a Beach Protection Area subject to that TMDL.

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 total suspended solids. These increases, a normal and unavoidable result of the placement of the quarrystone breakwater, may occur in the lake at the point of construction activity. Benthic habitat will also be disturbed in the vicinity of the construction area. The construction and modification of the existing steel groin and quarrystone breakwater will fill 0.01 acres. No mitigation is proposed for this project as total impact to waters of the U.S. totals 0.01 acres (area of quarried stone for breakwaters) and this is less than the threshold of 0.1 acres requiring mitigation. Supplemental information provided by the applicant regarding strategies to reduce E. coli loading as a result of beach modification indicate that the project will comply with the TMDL's water quality concentration limit load allocation of 126 cfu/100ml. Project improvements may contribute to an overall reduction of E. coli loading from this particular segment of Lake Michigan shoreline impacted by this project.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids, from the construction of the quarrystone breakwater, will be local and temporary. No mitigation is proposed for this project as total impact to waters of the U.S. totals 0.01 acres (area of quarried stone for breakwaters) and this is less than the threshold of 0.1 acres requiring mitigation. Although the benthic habitat will be disturbed by the construction activities, it is anticipated to recover and improve over time due to the placement of sand over the downcut clay substrates.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of the proposed stone groin is to address a safety concern by repairing the steel groin that has holes in it. The purpose of the proposed sand nourishment is to help maintain sand lost during storm events.

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

The options that were discussed for addressing steel sheetpile that is eroding and has holes in the steel are 1) new steel sheetpile (cost prohibitive), 2) remove steel and replace with stone (cost prohibitive), 3) attach chain link fencing over the holes (not a long-term solution), and 4) close this section of beach (not practical nor a long-term solution for the Lake Bluff Park District).

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

On May 23, 2016, the IDNR EcoCAT web-based tool was used and indicated that there were endangered/threatened species and resources (Blair Woods INAI Site, Blodgett Bluff INAI Site, Crabtree Farm Woods INAI Site, Lake Bluff Woods INAI Site, and Sea Rocket (*Cakile edentula*)) present in the vicinity of the project. IDNR evaluated the submittal and determined that the state-threatened plant sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*) may occur in the project area and could be harmed during project construction. IDNR recommended that the plant be searched for, flagged, and avoided if possible. If avoidance is not possible, the applicant should consider seed collection and plant translocation, and surface soil conservation measures to help promote the continued existence of this plant in the area. IDNR terminated the consultation request on June 1, 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 and TMDL load allocations; 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 addressing a safety concern by repairing the steel groin. Comments received during the 401 water quality certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.