

IEPA Log No.: **C-0033-16**
CoE appl. #: **LRC-2011-00025**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **December 19, 2017**
Public Notice Ending Date: **January 3, 2018**

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: McHenry County Division of Transportation – 16111 Nelson Road,
Woodstock, IL 60098

Discharge Location: Near Crystal Lake in Sections 5; 17-20, 29-32 of Township 42N & 43N, Range 8E
of the 3rd P.M. in Kane and McHenry County.

Name of Receiving Water: Unnamed wetlands

Project Description: Proposed reconstruction and widening of 1.6 miles of Randall Road between
intersections with Harnish Drive and Polaris Drive.

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 McHenry County Division of Transportation
IEPA Log No. C-0033-16
COE Log No. LRC-2011-00025
Contact: Scott Twait 217/558-2012
Public Notice Start Date: December 19, 2017

McHenry County DOT proposes to reconstruct and widen 1.6 miles of Randall Road between Harnish Drive (north of County Line Road) to Polaris Drive/Acorn Lane, including intersecting streets in the Villages of Algonquin and Lake in the Hills. The existing road consists of two lanes in each direction. The reconstructed road will be three lanes in each direction with multiple intersection improvements. A pedestrian/bike path will be added to some of the road segment. Randall Road is currently a main commercial artery in the area that is inadequate for the existing and predicted traffic flow. This project represents Contract 1 of two contracts.

Most the existing roadway has open-system drainage over roadway shoulders that sheet flow into ditches that are culverted under entrances and intersections. Commercial entrances and major intersections feature curb and gutter that typically outlet to the open ditch system. The open drainage system will be converted to a closed system with curb and gutter and storm sewer to replace the paved shoulder. Roadside ditches behind the proposed curb will be maintained where feasible to maintain existing drainage patterns. Additional improvements associated with this project include drainage and detention improvements, culvert extension/replacements, multi-use pathways and sidewalks, retaining walls and noise walls.

A total of 1.62 acres of wetland impact will occur due to widening and culvert placement and detention pond construction. The project impacts 4 wetlands. Most of these wetlands are considered high quality. An overall mitigation ratio of approximately 4.6:1 will be employed. Mitigation will occur on-site.

Information used in this review was obtained from the Applicant in documents entitled, Anti-Degradation Assessment, Randall Road, County Line Road to Polaris Road/Acorn Lane, McHenry County, Illinois dated January 2017 and resubmittal dated November 30, 2017, prepared by Huff and Huff, Inc.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Woods Creek (No segment ID) and Rat Creek (No segment ID) will receive storm water runoff from the project site during construction and operation phases. The streams are considered General Use Waters and have 3.8 cfs and 0.0 cfs 7-day, 10-year low flows, respectively. These segments have not been listed in the Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report or 303(d) List 2016. Using the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication Integrating Multiple Taxa in Biological Stream Rating System, the segments are not listed as biologically significant streams nor have they received an integrity rating. The segments are not enhanced water bodies pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard. Neither of these streams will be crossed by the proposed activities described in the application. Additionally, a 54 acre man-made reservoir known as Lake-In-The Hills (IL_RTZZ) is approximately ¼ mile downstream of the proposed stormwater discharges. This lake is surrounded by a planned residential development. This water body is a General Use water and is listed on the Illinois Integrated Water Quality

Report or 303(d) List 2016 as impaired for fish consumption and aesthetic quality. The causes of impairment are mercury, TSS, phosphorus and aquatic plants.

A list of wetlands to be impacted and the proposed mitigation is shown in the table below:

Wetland ID and Type	Size (acre)	Impact (acre)	FQI / Native Mean C	HQAR	Mitigation Ratio	Mitigation Required
Wetland 1 HFVW	8.96	0.49	10.1 / 3.3	Yes	3.0:1	1.47
Wetland 2 HQHW	25.07	0.82	24 / 3.2	Yes	6.0:1	4.92
Wetland 5 HFVW	0.43	0.27	0.0 / 0.0	Yes	3.0:1	0.81
Wetland 17 L232 (farm)	0.77	0.04	4.1 / 1.7	No	1.5:1	0.06
Total	35.23	1.62	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.26

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

The construction related pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in total suspended solids in the wetlands. These increases, a normal and unavoidable result of the construction and widening of roadways, are not expected to impact designated uses. Temporary and permanent best management practices (BMPs) will be used during construction to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Portions of wetlands that are adjacent to the project site will be filled to accommodate the improvements, the impacted areas are indicated in the above table.

Post construction pollutant load increases will include road salt and various metals and other substances from the vehicles resulting from the increased impervious roadway surface areas. The applicant conducted an analysis to determine if any water quality standard for inorganics or chloride would be exceeded during runoff events or snow/ice storms. The analysis concluded that water quality standards would not be exceeded. Pollutants that are causes of the downstream impaired Lake-In-The-Hills are either not expected to be increased by the roadway project or will be addressed by permanent BMPs such as detention ponds. McHenry County DOT will use best management practices to minimize salt usage on this road.

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 sediment loading and prevent impacts to the wetlands and downstream waters. Suspended solids that enter the wetlands will become part of the bed load. Chloride will remain in the water column until runoff events flush it downstream. No adverse impact is anticipated from the pollutants generated by this project.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The Randall Road corridor is characterized by several deficiencies including severe congestion, inconsistent access, safety and accident concerns, and a lack of pedestrian and bicycle access. The purpose and need for the proposed improvements is to improve mobility, enhance access, address safety, minimize environmental impacts, and maintain community values and land use planning goals. By reducing traffic congestion, air pollution will be reduced. Storm water will be treated with BMPs (such as naturalized detention basins and vegetated swales). The implementation of bike paths will not only reduce traffic congestions but also create continuity with “green” corridors.

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

An analysis of different road configurations was conducted and the chosen alternative impacted fewer acres of wetlands than other options. Commercial and residential development has already occurred in the area served by Randall Road and therefore no other alternatives exist to widening the road. Wetland impacts have been minimized by using retaining walls and reducing lane widths from 12 feet to 11 feet.

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

An Eco-CAT endangered species consultation was submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on August 17, 2016. No endangered species were identified from the project area and consultation was immediately 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 assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; 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 a widened road to reduce congestion for local residents and by providing construction jobs. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.