

IEPA Log No.: **C-0037-19**
CoE appl. #: **LRC-2012-00529**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **October 30, 2019**
Public Notice Ending Date: **November 29, 2019**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material

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: Hanson Material Service Corporation – 620 West 183rd St.,
Thornton, IL 60476

Discharge Location: Near Romeoville in Sections 2, 3 & 10 of Township 36-North, Range 10-East of the East 3rd P.M. in Will County.

Name of Receiving Water: Wetlands that are tributary to Des Plaines River

Project Description: Proposed expansion of surface mining activities and offsite wetland creation and enhancement plan.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge dredged or fill material 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 contact Darren Gove at email darren.gove@illinois.gov or phone no. 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
 For Hanson Material Service Corporation
 IEPA Log No. C-0037-19
 COE Log No. LRC-2012-00529
 Contact: Angie Sutton 217/558-2012
 Public Notice Start Date: October 30, 2019

Hanson Material Service (“Applicant”) has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts to 30.1 acres of wetlands, including 6 acres of wetland containing sedge meadow and wet-mesic dolomite prairie. The impacts are associated with the expansion of mining operations into a 125-acre parcel, and implementation of a Habitat Conservation Plan for the federally endangered Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) and other listed species. A road will be constructed through an additional 2 parcels that will be used for mitigation activities. The project will result in impacts to 29.7 acres of wetland in the 125-acre Middle Parcel and 0.4 acres of portions of ComEd and Long Run Parcels for the mitigation area access road. The site, located in Romeoville in Will County, can be found in Section 10, Range 10-East, Township 36-North. Proposed mitigation for this project will include the transplant of 6.0 acres of high-quality wetlands which will enhance and restore an area known to support the federally listed Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly (HED). This is part of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that is under review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) for approval to evaluate mitigation. The remaining 24.1 acres will be mitigated as part of the HCP to restore and enhance 233.7 acres of habitat for HED and state listed spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) and Blanding’s turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). The HCP will also benefit two federally listed plants, leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*), and lakeside daisy (*Hymenoxys acaulis*). Appropriate erosion control methods will be followed in order to keep overburden from entering other wetlands on the parcel and waterways.

Information used in this review was obtained from the USACE Public Notice dated July 29, 2019, and the Permit Application dated January 31, 2019 including supporting documentation dated September 14, 2017.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Nine wetlands totaling 29.74 acres were identified in Middle Parcel. Of the nine, Wetland 1-4, and 7-9 were found to be primarily Marsh-Phragmites with some portions having been previously scraped to expose bedrock, and Wetland 5 comprised of wet meadow-reed canary. These wetlands make up 8.18 acres of the 29.74 acres identified. Wetland 6 comprises the largest surface area of the identified wetland covering 21.56 acres, 6 acres of that being made up of high-quality wet-mesic dolomite prairie, a globally rare ecosystem. The remaining acreage consists of areas of marsh-Phragmites, Shrubland Bottomland and Marsh-Cattail. A Floristic Quality Assessment was conducted for all of the wetlands identified, with the exception of Wetland 3 (0.77 acres) and Wetland 9 (0.02 acres) due to dominant vegetation consisting almost entirely of common reed (*Phragmites Australis*). Methodology presented in *Plants of Chicago Region* (Swink and Wilhelm, 1994) proposes that an area with a native Mean C greater than 3.5 is considered a high-quality aquatic resource. In addition, a Floristic Quality Index (FQI) of 1-19 is considered low vegetative quality, 20-35 indicates high vegetative quality. Wetlands with an FQI of 20 or above is considered to be a high-quality aquatic resource but a wetland with an FQI greater than 35 is classified as “Natural Area”. The wetland delineation shows Wetland 1-5 and 7-9 all considered to be of low quality, while Wetland 6, which includes both Wet-Mesic Dolomite Prairie and Sedge Meadow ecosystems, is considered a high-quality aquatic resource. The 6 acre Wet-Mesic Dolomite Prairie ecosystem has an FQI of 43.19 and a Mean C of 5.05 and is part of a the larger wetland number 6 as shown in the below table.

Middle Parcel Wetland Characterization

Wetland	Mean C	FQI	Surface Area (ac)
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1	1.33	4.62	0.06
2	1.55	6.93	0.17
3	Not assessed	Not assessed	0.77
4	2.28	11.40	2.25
5	2.60	14.24	0.08
6	3.85	38.50	21.56
7	2.68	16.28	1.23
8	2.47	16.16	3.60
9	Not assessed	Not assessed	0.02
		Total	29.74

The proposed access road will impact 0.4 acres of wetlands on the shared border of ComEd and Long Run parcels. The ComEd parcel contains 61.14 acres of wetlands, with Wetland 1 comprising 60.27 acres, with a Mean C of 3.19 and 33.87 FQI. Long Run contains 176.33 acres of wetlands. This wetland is 176.03 acres, with a Mean C of 3.51 and 24.57 FQI. Although the wetlands impacted by the access road are of high-quality, the route currently exists for use by ComEd. The area proposed to be impacted by the access road is of lower quality than the surrounding wetlands due to the history of use and disturbance due to past oil spill clean up activities on the eastern portion.

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 overburden removal in Middle Parcel, habitat enhancement activities associated with the HCP as well as access road construction in ComEd and Long Run Parcels. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be implemented in accordance with the Illinois Urban Manual to minimize suspended solids discharges. Runoff from construction activities at Middle Parcel will be directed to a settling pond within the quarry where solids will settle out and may be discharged under authority of a Subtitle D "Mining" NPDES permit. All 29.7 acres of wetlands on Middle Parcel will be removed (23.7 acres of low-quality wetland) or transplanted (6.0 acres of high-quality wetland). An additional 0.4 acres of wetland on ComEd Parcel will be filled as a result of constructing an access road for mitigation activities. The 6.0 acre Wet-Mesic Dolomite Prairie will be transplanted to ComEd Parcel as part of the HCP developed by Hanson Material Services (HMS) in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in total suspended solids resulting from mining activities including the overburden removal in the Middle Parcel would represent a loading increase that is covered by an existing NPDES Permit IL0033375 issued on January 17, 2019. The construction at the ComEd parcel associated with the improved access road and the HCP would result in a local and temporary increase in total suspended solids. Although there is technically no proposed discharge of dredged or fill material within the Middle Parcel, HMS intends to mitigate for all 29.7 acres impacted. The 6.0 acres of Wet-Mesic Dolomite Prairie and Sedge Meadow (soil and vegetation) will be transplanted to the ComEd Parcel on the east side of the Des Plaines River. This replacement will be considered to be a mitigation ratio of 1:1 due to the ecological value and function being preserved. Transplanting this ecosystem and enhancing the existing 12.2 acres of Wet-Mesic Dolomite Prairie will improve and increase the high-quality area to 18.2 acres

and reduce fragmentation of HED habitat. Performance standards as outlined by the HCP will be applied to the area to maintain the transplanted habitat. The impacts to the remaining 24.1 acres of low-quality wetlands (23.7 in Middle Parcel and 0.4 acres in ComEd for access road construction) will be mitigated by re-establishing 25.1 acres of wetlands on the east side of the river on ComEd, Long Run and River South Parcels as part of the wetland habitat restoration outlined in the HCP. This mitigation proposal would restore, enhance and maintain 233.7 acres providing a total of 89.5 wetland mitigation credits. Individual mitigation areas have varying mitigation ratios dependent upon the type of activity whether preservation, enhancement, restoration or transplant. The 233.7 acres of restoration, enhancement and maintenance, plus the 6.0 acres of Wet Mesic Dolomite Prairie transplant result in 239.7 acres of habitat restored, enhanced or improved.

Mitigation Plan

Parcel	Area Improved	Improvement Type	Credit Acres
ComEd and Long Run	80.6 Acres	Restoration	40.3 Acres
ComEd and Long Run	59.5 Acres	Enhancement	14.9 Acres
River South and Fitzpatrick Seep	40.6 Acres	Restoration	20.3 Acres
River South and Fitzpatrick Seep	22.9 Acres	Enhancement	5.7 Acres
River Parcel	3.2 Acres	Restoration	1.6 Acres
River Parcel	26.9 Acres	Restoration without ground layer restoration	6.7 Acres
Total	233.7 Acres		89.5 Acres

An additional 28.0 acres of credits are proposed as a result of 201.7 acres (156.7 acres wetland and 45.0 acres upland buffer) preservation. A total of 117.5 acres of wetland credits will be received as a result of restoration, enhancement, preservation and transplantation of 441.4 acres, resulting in a 4.9:1 mitigation ratio. The improvements along this section of the Des Plaines River will connect Romeoville Prairie and Lockport Prairie Preserves, both of which are holdings in the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC).

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of this project is to allow HMS to continue aggregate mining while at the same time, taking part in habitat conservation and restoration to ensure continued viability of certain threatened and endangered species in the area. HMS is also able to continue to provide product to local and regional markets in an economical, safe and clean manner due to the ability to ship by barge or train. HMS is the only regional facility with the ability to ship by truck, rail and barge. Barge transport provides better fuel efficiency than trucks and improves air quality by reducing carbon emissions. It is also a safer option in that using barge transport reduces road traffic. Not only does HMS employ over 200 people, it generates a large amount of property tax revenue. HMS has also developed important outreach and educational programs to award grants which assist with ground water and stormwater projects and HED habitat restoration.

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

Wetland and hydrological impact will be kept to a minimum by avoiding mining of approximately 114 acres. 24 acres without wetlands in Pierce Eich and Middle Quarry could be mined under Illinois Mining Regulations but will not be so as to avoid groundwater impacts. This will reduce the surface mining area by 11%. An additional 90 acres, North Parcel (with 19 acres wetlands) and Spangler property were also considered as part of previous mining plans but will not be considered in the current plan in order to prevent impacts to ground water, wetlands, and species covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan also referred to as Covered Species (HED, Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, leafy prairie clover and Lakeside daisy). The exclusion of these parcels and properties reduce surface mining areas by 48%. HMS will run out of primary surface reserves in approximately 2024. Without expansion, the existence of the facility would be threatened, jobs would be lost, and HMS clients and projects would be affected due to the lack of availability of aggregate resources. Alternatives considered would result in a reduction of the surface mining plan, most of which reduce wetlands. These have been rejected due to them meeting only part of the purpose and need of the project. Alternatives would also reduce mitigation and the implementation of the HCP for survival and recovery of Covered Species.

The Applicant has provided the following alternatives:

Option 1 – Do nothing (No Action Alternative):

Choosing this option will result in no wetlands impact and in turn, no Section 404 permit issued or Section 401 certification. No activities would result in no Covered Species or critical habitat impacts and therefore USFWS and IDNR would not issue an Incidental Take Permit or Authorization. This would prevent implementation of any conservation or mitigation plans. A no action option would cause economic harm to HMS as well as social and economic detriment to the community and state. HMS would have no pollution control costs, but net income would decrease from \$6.4 million to a \$689,000 loss. The projected profit rate under the No Action Alternative would be -446%. This profit loss, and the 205 jobs that would be lost make this option not economically feasible. There would be a resulting increase in the unemployment rate as well as cost of social services relating to unemployment if HMS is forced to end operations at the Romeoville facility. Property tax revenue would also be decreased from \$650,000 to \$150,000. If the HMS plan is not permitted, there will be no HCP and in turn, no restoration and enhancement of habitat implemented. The on-site wetlands would continue to degrade and eventually be overrun with invasive species and the high quality resource would be severely diminished in value and function. The HCP provides management of the invasive species that reduce the HED and Covered Species Habitat. Without the HCP, HED, Blanding's turtle and other Covered Species habitat cannot be restored, managed and expanded and as a result, populations in the Des Plaines River Valley would be reduced due to genetic and population isolation. A No Action Alternative also means that there would be limited surface mining and no sub-surface mining going forward. Only the East Parcel could be mined because there would be no impacts to wetlands or Covered Species. This would likely be completed in 3 years and the company would have to wait until Covered Species were no longer listed to mine further areas. As a result, approximately 57 million tons of surface reserves and 300 million tons of underground reserves would be lost. The loss of reserves would require transporting aggregate from other HMS locations. Barge operations would shut down and trucks would be required for transport resulting in higher costs due to fuel efficiency decrease and an increase in manpower. This increase in equipment (approximately 59,000 more trucks) combined with decreased fuel efficiency will result in additional air pollution. This option would mean that no ground water impact avoidance measures would be implemented as outlined in the Proposed Action. This option was rejected as it was found to be impractical in that it would shutdown operations in Romeoville in approximately 5 years, failing to meet the project purpose and need. Local market costs would rise, and local road traffic would increase

resulting in pollution increases. Lastly, no mitigation would occur and as a result, continued degradation of Covered Species Habitat thereby decreasing the survival and recovery likelihood of Covered Species.

Option 2 – Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action):

This option involves removal and translocation of wetlands in accordance with the HCP currently being reviewed for final approval by the USFWS. Bedrock in 115 acres of Middle Parcel will be exposed for surface mining by removing soil from degraded wetlands and uplands. 6.0 acres of high-quality wetlands will be removed and transplanted to the east side of the Des Plaines River as part of the HCP to enhance, restore and transplant wetland areas. Mining will continue into Middle Parcel from the Middle Quarry north. The Project includes continued mining of the remaining 1 acre of Middle Quarry, 35 acres of Pierce Eich Quarry, 36 acres of East Parcel and subsurface mining at the Romeoville Facility. None of these activities will impact any wetlands. Mitigation activities will require construction of a gravel road that will impact 0.4 acres of wetlands, through a portion of ComEd and Long Run Parcels.

Implementation of avoidance and Mitigation Measures will result in 30.1 acres of wetland impacts. 441 acres of wetlands and adjacent upland habitats will be mitigated through wetland restoration and enhancement and 25 acres of wetlands will be created. Because of the mitigation plan included in the proposed action, no wetlands will be lost, and all impacts will be fully mitigated. All mitigation plans are included in the HCP as part of this preferred alternative. The HCP also includes the River South Bluff Parcel infiltration gallery and the Forest Preserve District of Will County infiltration pond for groundwater maintenance. Enhancements allow for design flexibility to prevent or decrease impacts from new well construction or community water supply usage. Water supply can also be provided during drought periods. A long-term solution for maintenance of wetland hydrology will be executed by plugging the tunnel under Route 53 to allow ground water levels in Pierce Eich Quarry to return to historic levels once mining is complete and in turn, local hydrology will be improved.

Option 3 –Subsurface Mining Alternative:

This option would allow for HMS to continue mining at the Romeoville facility. Underground mining would extract limestone from 300-700 feet below ground. The reserves are below the Silurian aquifer, but ground water does not penetrate vertically due to low permeability units (Maquoketa Group) existing between the aquifer and limestone. If this alternative is pursued however, there could be some impacts to local hydrology due the necessity to access reserves by penetrating the full thickness of the Silurian aquifer which discharges into the Des Plaines River Valley and supplies groundwater to seeps and wetlands which support HED habitat. Groundwater control programs will be implemented for head loss prevention, tunnel stabilization and worker safety. This alternative does not allow for Pierce Eich Quarry to re-fill with groundwater due to the need to keep ground water pumped out for access to mine. A Subsurface Mining Alternative presents design, structural integrity, safety and product quality issues that include more sampling, that need to be considered. Subsurface mining is more costly and takes more time to develop. It can take up to 2 years before subsurface mining can begin due to the time it takes to engineer, plan, and develop access to the reserves whereas extending surface mining can occur in just days. Costs are higher with this alternative as a result of additional infrastructure required. This includes ventilation system needs, underground power systems, roof bolting for safety, specialized equipment including conveyers and crushers and special training of the workforce. This option also requires much of the limestone to remain undisturbed for support and in turn, utilizes 45% of the limestone reserves compared with 95% with surface mining. Including the added safety measures, safety training and air monitoring, labor costs, energy costs and risk increases. Ultimately production costs are 25% higher and capital costs with this option will be approximately \$53 million in the first 5 years. There would be no additional costs to surface mine the same amount of limestone. Increase in these costs would cause an overall market loss to HMS due to the cost increase being passed on to customers. This option was not chosen as it is impractical and leaves surface reserves unmined, economically impacting the project.

Although this option eliminates all impacts to wetlands, it also eliminates the HCP outlined in the Proposed Action and in turn would allow for the remaining wetland on Middle Parcel (and other parcels) will continue to degrade and eventually be lost. The Subsurface Mining Alternative was not chosen as it does not meet the project's purpose and need and will likely result in reduced survival and recovery of Covered Species.

Option 4 –Reduced Surface Mining Alternatives:

This option would allow for reduction of impacts to Covered Species and their habitats, including wetlands, by changing or reducing surface mining areas. Areas currently zoned for surface mining are Pierce Eich Quarry, Middle Parcel, Middle Quarry, North Parcel, East Quarry and East Parcel. Two options were outlined as part of this alternative. One option considered is the exclusion of the expansion of operations in Pierce Eich Quarry, while still including Middle Parcel, Middle Quarry and East Parcel. Not continuing operations in Pierce Eich Quarry would decrease the overall mining area by 19% (35 acres). Decreasing mining in Pierce Eich Quarry would prevent potential groundwater (but not wetland) impacts in River South Parcel and the Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve. These are both designated or potential habitats for HED, Blanding's turtle and the spotted turtle. Under this alternative, groundwater enhancements would not be implemented. The most productive HED breeding habitat in the state, would then become susceptible to drought. The Preferred Alternative provides drought protection by enhancing groundwater for the River South Bluff Parcel infiltration gallery and the Forest Preserve District of Will County infiltration pond. This alternative does not allow for a tunnel plug placement. No tunnel plug placement will in turn, keep Pierce Eich Quarry from filling to historic groundwater levels. No filling in Pierce Eich Quarry in combination with mining Middle Parcel, groundwater impacts will occur in areas to the north. Covered Species habitat may be affected by surface mining Middle Parcel and would affect ground water and critical habitat to the north. Because of this, groundwater Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM's) may be required to protect nearby parcels but were not evaluated and this is not the preferred alternative due to performance and cost. The second option considered under this alternative is to exclude the Middle Parcel, while considering Pierce Eich Quarry, Middle Quarry and East Parcel. This option decreases surface mining area by 61% (115 acres) and would eliminate all direct impacts to wetlands as there are none in Middle Parcel and would be none in ComEd Parcel due to little if no habitat restoration. Only Middle Parcel has federally designated Critical Habitat for HED and known habitat for Blanding's turtle. Not mining this parcel would eliminate direct impacts to those resources even though only adult HED habitat exists here but not evidence of successful breeding exists. There will still be potential impacts to groundwater due to mining of Pierce Eich Quarry through AMM's that include River South Bluff Parcel infiltration gallery and FPDWC infiltration pond. Impacts to groundwater would have impacts similar to the Preferred Alternative, but would eliminate direct impacts to wetlands, HED and Blanding's turtle habitat and would decrease habitat connectivity. There would be no restoration under this plan as in the Preferred Alternative and no Wet-Mesic Dolomite Prairie transplantation would occur. All other wetland impacts would be mitigated.

Option 5 –Surface Mining Other HMS Romeoville Parcels Alternative:

This option provides for reduced or elimination of Middle Parcel and Pierce Eich Quarry by mining other areas. Those areas would include River, North, Far North and River North Parcels in addition to planned mining of Middle Quarry and East Parcel. However, stone quality of the reserves in the added parcels has not been evaluated due to some limiting factors. Mining these areas result in a greater proportion of wetland impacts as there is a higher proportion of wetlands and there are only 3.1 acres of high-quality Wet-Mesic Dolomite Prairie which lies on North Parcel. All of River and half or more of River North Parcel are in the Des Plaines River floodplain. Federally-designated HED habitat is found on each of the above parcels and mining them in addition to exclusion of Middle Parcel would fragment habitat and reduce connectivity. In addition, North, Far North, River North and River Parcels contain known or

potential habitat for Blanding's and spotted turtles. Groundwater impacts are a concern with this alternative when considering mining the three north parcels. Negative impacts to groundwater would be due to the parcels' proximity to Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve as mining these parcels would affect the local hydrology. Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve contains habitat for all five Covered Species. Operational limitations associated with mining the areas north of Middle Parcel include the fact that ComEd owns a large portion of the area, not HMS. The area is closer to residential areas and parcels that are not currently zoned for mining is unlikely to be approved by the Village of Romeoville. In addition, a closed landfill exists on Far North Parcel. There are also higher costs associated with mining in a new location as opposed to continuing mining operations from an existing mine, which would be done in Middle Quarry and Middle Parcel as outlined in the Preferred Alternative. This option was rejected because of operational limitations, and lack in reduction of increased impacts to wetlands and Covered Species habitat unlike the Preferred Alternative. This option may also lead to negative groundwater impacts in the vicinity of the Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve and could reduce mitigation efforts which would reduce benefits to Covered Species. Mining this area would be difficult and more costly than mining Middle Parcel under the Proposed Action and will therefore fail in achieving the purpose and need for the proposed activity put forth by HMS.

Conclusion:

Option 2 was the option chosen as it is more economically feasible and is the only alternative that includes the complete mitigation and conservation package. Not choosing this alternative will allow for continued decline of the wetlands on Middle Parcel caused by invasive species which has already been observed and documented during development of the HCP. The Preferred Alternative includes the mitigation plan designed to protect, restore and enhance wetland quality and function. This includes habitat for listed species (both Federal and State) found on HMS parcels. Permitting full use of the surface reserves on Middle Parcel allows for initiating and funding of the protection, management, restoration and preservation of high-quality wetland and habitat through an approved HCP in this area.

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

On July 26, 2019, the IDNR EcoCAT review was initiated for the project area. This project is currently under review by USFWS as it continues its decision making process regarding the proposed Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit issuance.

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 would 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 would benefit the community by supporting continued economic stimulation and would benefit the surrounding ecology by improving previously deteriorating wetlands and transplanting rare valuable wetlands in order to prevent their loss. The activity outlined in this fact sheet will also enhance areas known to support the discussed Covered Species. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency