

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Permit Section
(IEPA)**

1021 North Grand Avenue East, Post Office Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, 217/782-3362

The IEPA has issued a Public Notice of a request for a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification that would allow the issuance of a federal permit for the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.

Public Notice Beginning Date:

Tuesday, June 29, 2021

Public Notice Ending Date:

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Agency Log No.:C-0062-21

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. MVS-2020-667 is under the jurisdiction of St. Louis District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, Bryan Johnson, A.A.E. - 9656 Air Terminal Drive, Suite 100, Mascoutah, IL 62258

Discharge Location: In Section 18 of Township 1-North and Range 6-West of the West 3rd Principal Meridian in St. Clair County. Additional project location information includes the following: MidAmerica Airport, west of State Route 4, Mascoutah, IL 62258

Name of Receiving Water: Unnamed tributary to Crooked Creek

Project Description: Multi-building complex intended for aircraft assembly, flight tests and operations, and maintenance operations.

Construction Schedule: Unknown at this time

The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their name and address along with comments on the certification request. The IEPA Log number must appear on each comment page. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. Only comments that pertain to Clean Water Act Section 401 authority as defined under 40 CFR part 121.3 will be considered. Part 121.3 defines the "scope of a Clean Water Act section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a discharge from a Federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements". Requests for additional comment period must provide a demonstration of need. The last day that comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless the IEPA grants an extended notice period.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a detailed description of the project and the findings of the IEPA's antidegradation assessment.

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 see the contact information below.

Name: Derek Rompot

Email: Derek.Rompot@Illinois.gov

Phone: 217/782-3362

Post Document. No. C-0062-21-06292021-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

Antidegradation Assessment Review for a 401 Water Quality Certification for Development at
MidAmerica St. Louis Airport/Boeing Production Facility
IEPA Log No. C-0062-21
St. Clair County
Contact: Angie Sutton 217-782-9864

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport (“Applicant”) has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with proposed development in Section 18, Township 1 North, Range 6 West, St. Clair County, Illinois. The project site is approximately 250 acres (Ac.) and lies south of Airport Boulevard and west of Illinois Route 4 in Mascoutah. The project involves permanently impacting 1277 Linear Feet (LF) of streams as a result of development of a new multi-building complex to support economic development at the airport. The stream, designated STR-4, will be filled in with 580 cubic yards (CY) of clean fill in order to make way for construction of buildings, parking lots and related attendant features. The upstream reach of the stream will be rerouted to a channel that empties into Crooked Creek. Mitigation will be provided by the purchase of 4575.6 mitigation credits from the Lower Kaskaskia Watershed as calculated using the Illinois Stream Mitigation Method.

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated March 18, 2021, March 17, 2021, November 19, 2020, September 14, 2020, December 23, 2020, May 13, 2021.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The wetland delineation performed on June 29, 2020 identified four streams (STR-1, STR-2, STR-3 and STR-4) and two wetlands (WTL-1 and WTL-2) in the project area. Of these, three of the streams were determined to be jurisdictional waters. STR-1 is a 4610.54 LF perennial stream in the project area and is identified as Crooked Creek. STR-3 is a 1678.42 LF perennial stream in the project area and is identified as NW Stream. Both streams run through the site and continue outside of the study area. STR-4 is a 4196.24 LF in length intermittent, tertiary priority water that is functionally impaired due to active farming up to the stream’s edges. The stream is supplied by groundwater, upstream farmland, and adjacent uplands. 2504.43 LF is within the project area and it was determined that 1277 LF of these jurisdictional waters will be impacted by the project.

The unnamed tributaries to Silver Creek, also known as Crooked Creek, have 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. The unnamed tributaries to Silver Creek are classified as General Use Water. The unnamed tributaries to Silver 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 rating in that document. The unnamed tributaries to Silver Creek, tributary to Waterbody Segment IL_OD-07, are not listed on the 2018 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List since it has not been assessed. The unnamed tributaries to Silver Creek are not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

The USGS Illinois StreamStats basin characteristics program gives a watershed size of 0.08 square miles for the unnamed tributary of Silver Creek. According to the Illinois State Water Survey, the unnamed tributaries of Silver Creek in the area of the proposed development, discharge is 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 3 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.

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 filling the unnamed tributary to Silver Creek are expected to be permanent due to fill placement in 1277 LF of the existing channel. The upstream reach will be connected to a channel that empties into a downstream reach of Crooked Creek. Habitat and some stream species within the stream will be permanently impacted with some motile species being displaced both upstream and downstream of the impact area. There is expected to be some local impact to faunal diversity but will recover over time. Some temporary increases in suspended solids may occur during connection of the upstream reach of the tributary to channel but would be expected to settle out relatively quickly once the project is completed. Only clean soil fill will be used to fill the existing stream and the flow will be re-routed through a new channel that will be stabilized as quickly as possible with seeding.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

Impacts to STR-4 are proposed to be mitigated by purchasing mitigation credits in the Lower Kaskaskia watershed. An in-lieu fee program (Land Learning Foundation) was recently authorized for this USACE district. A total of 4,576 mitigation credits are required as determined using the Illinois Stream Mitigation Method.

A stormwater pollution prevention plan will be implemented for the site during construction to minimize sedimentation into the receiving streams. Additionally, a soil erosion and sediment control plan provides Best Management Practices (BMPs) which include avoidance of waterways and wetlands to the maximum extent possible and stabilization of the waterway before, during, and after in-channel work. Reseeding and revegetation should occur within 5 days after grading is completed. No reconfiguration work will be completed within 50 feet of the waterway until all materials and equipment needed for waterway protection is on site. Appropriated stormwater conveyances will be designed and stabilization to prevent erosion will be provided at the outlets of all pipes and paved channels. Turf grass, native tall grass prairie or low growing prairie seed mix will be used in various areas, as well as planting 20 native trees.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The proposed project is expected to create construction related and permanent jobs (direct, indirect and induced). It will support economic development at the airport by providing an additional revenue source for the St. Clair County Public Building Commission, the owner of the airport. Revenue is currently limited from the land through row crop farming, and development and lease of this land to Boeing would provide greater and more diverse revenue to the Building Commission.

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

Alternatives to the proposed project considered minimization of impacts to aquatic resources. It was determined that complete avoidance of the stream impacts was not feasible due to the need to have development within the airport property and accessible to the airfield while at the same time, avoiding other wetlands protected by existing conservation easements. The alternatives considered a limited range of reasonable alternatives that met the proposed project's purpose and need and met construction and operational feasibility criteria. In order to be considered, an alternative must be feasible to construct and operate within the existing constraints, costs must be reasonable in comparison to other alternatives, and the project must be located to eventually provide access to Runway 14L-32R and avoid introduction of new roadway crossings.

Five alternatives and the no-build alternative were evaluated.

No Build Alternative: This alternative does not promote economic development at BLV and allows the undeveloped land on the property to remain unused. Minimal revenue would be continued to be generated by farming, but full revenue potential would be limited.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative): This alternative would construct and operate the proposed development on airport property. The proposed project area would be southeast of the passenger terminal where there is adequate acreage available for the proposed development. This location has direct access to Runway 14L-32R and is in proximity to existing roads and utilities. The On-Airport Land Use Plan identifies this area for future airport development.

Alternative 2: This location is west of Runway 14L-32R and would involve removal of substantial wetland areas. Due to the magnitude of surface water impacts, this alternative was not chosen.

Alternative 3: This location east of the passenger terminal is not feasible as it is designated for future expansion of the terminal and adjacent parking lots. Due to existing roadways and parking lots, access to the runway is limited. This alternative did not meet the requirements of construction and operational feasibility and therefore not chosen.

Alternative 4: This location, an off-Airport property, was evaluated but it was determined not to be practical due to the requirement for runway access for aviation activity. Additional land would be required in order to construct an access taxiway for aircraft and roads for vehicles between the runway and the aviation development. Expense for other infrastructure improvements (utilities and roadways) would be much greater than for development on Airport property. This alternative did not meet the requirements of construction and operational feasibility and therefore not chosen.

Alternative 5: This alternative location is on the adjacent Scott Air Force Base. However, because Scott Air Force Base is an active federal military installation, and the Joint Use Agreement between the Department of the Air Force and St. Clair County excludes civilian activity development on the Base, this alternative was deemed not feasible.

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

An EcoCAT endangered species consultation was submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on September 14, 2020 (Project # 2105281) and found records of state and federally listed threatened northern long-eared (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Indiana (*Myotis sodalis*) bats in the vicinity of the project location. If any trees will be removed as a result of construction activities, the Department recommends tree removal occurs from November 1st through March 31st when the bats are likely to be hibernating. If tree removal is necessary during the bat's active period, a field visit should be performed by a qualified individual to determine if suitable trees are present to provide bat habitat. Suitable habitat trees should be clearly flagged and shall not be cut between April 1st and October 31st. Non-suitable trees may be cut at any time. On November 6, 2020 the project area was assessed for suitable habitat for the Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. Five potential roost trees were discovered within the 5.5 Acre tree removal area. Given the recommendations are adopted, the Department determined that impacts are unlikely.

It was determined that there are no critical habitats within the area under USFWS jurisdiction and a Section 7 Consultation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated December 23, 2020 determined that

no further action on this project is needed. USFWS agrees with the information provided that tree removal should only occur between November 1st and March 31st in order to avoid adverse effects to the Indiana and Northern Long-eared bats. It was also advised that the Service is unaware of any bald eagle nests in the proposed project area. However, if one is found in the project area or the vicinity then the office shall be contacted in order to implement new guidelines.

The Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) species list contains a total of 6 threatened or endangered species. The listed species include:

- Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
- Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*)
- Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)
- Illinois Cave Amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*)
- Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens*)

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 St. Clair County Public Building Commission by providing an additional revenue source and creating construction related and permanent jobs. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.