

**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:

Thursday, August 19, 2021

Public Notice Ending Date:

Thursday, September 2, 2021

Agency Log No.:C-0161-21

Federal Permit Information: This civil works project is under the jurisdiction of Rock Island District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: :U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District - Clocktower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Discharge Location: In Section 19 of Township 17-North and Range 2-West of the West 4th Principal Meridian in Rock Island County. Additional project location information includes the following: near the head of Andalusia Slough and Smith Island Channel Side, Rock Island, IL 61264

Name of Receiving Water: Mississippi River

Project Description: Emergency navigational hydraulic dredging in Linwood Reach of Pool 18.

Construction Schedule: Unknown at this time (After -the-Fact)

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.

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Post Document. No. C-0161-21-08192021-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

This assessment is based on the Environmental Assessment (Draft, April 2021) for Linwood Dredge Cut Dredged Material Placement at Upper Mississippi River Pool 16, River Miles 475.0-476.6.

Rock Island District is seeking Section 401 certification of hydraulic dredging and placement of approximately 54,113 cubic yards of dredged spoils within waters of the State performed under emergency conditions in August of 2019. Dredging has already occurred and as such this review is undertaken with the intent to determine if water quality standards in the effected waters would be attained as if the activity has not already been implemented. Based on the fact that the discharge of dredged or fill material occurred for a very short period of time (approximately 1 month) the Agency has determined that the activity is not subject to further antidegradation assessment in accordance with provisions under Illinois Pollution Control Board rules at 35 Ill. Adm. Code Section 302.105(d)(1). Therefore, pursuant to Subsection (f), no further review is necessary and no Antidegradation assessment is warranted. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts navigation channel maintenance dredging on a routine basis along many segments of the nation's waterways to maintain trafficability to facilitate commercial transportation and other critical purposes. Regional flooding during 2019 deposited significant amounts of materials in the Linwood reach beyond what typically occurs over a 5 year period. The actual placement site, located on a natural Island on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River, was chosen in consultation with the multi-agency On-Site Inspection Team (OSIT) and because traditional placement locations within the Linwood reach were unavailable. The dredged material consisted predominantly of medium to fine dark brown sand and was graded to approximately 3H:1V slope after placement. Grain size analysis was conducted on three representative samples taken on July 2, 2019 from the dredge cut prior to dredging. These samples indicated that there was no cause to conduct further material analysis in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code Section 395.204 and that the material was essentially non-pollutional. Turbidity increases caused by the discharge of hydraulically dredged materials would be temporary and any suspended solids loading would also be temporary and would become part of the river's bed load downstream of the discharge location.

The Agency tentatively finds that this activity would not cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards and would not violate antidegradation provisions of the Illinois Pollution Control Board because any lowering of water quality would be considered short-term and temporary. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.