

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

2520 West Iles, 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, July 8, 2025

Public Notice Ending Date:

Monday, July 28, 2025

Agency Log No.: C-0039-25

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. LRC-2019-846 is under the jurisdiction of Chicago District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: Linda and Richard Price - 60 Ravinoaks Lane, Highland Park, IL 60035

Discharge Location: In Section 25 of Township 43-North and Range 12-East of the East 3rd Principal Meridian in Lake County. Additional project location information includes the following: Lakefront at 60 Ravinoaks Lane in Highland Park, Highland Park, IL 60035

Name of Receiving Water: Lake Michigan

Project Name/Description: Sand Nourishment - proposed placement up to 500 tons of clean quarried sand yearly within 75 ft of the revetment and spread to an angle of repose of 1:10 for a 10-year sand nourishment permit

Construction Schedule: Beginning Jun 2025 and ending Jun 2035

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 must 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 hearing requests and comments that pertain to Clean Water Act Section 401 authority will be considered. This authority provides consideration of whether the permit or license would be consistent with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307 of the CWA, as well as "any other appropriate requirement of State [or tribal] law". Requests for additional comment period must provide a demonstration of need. The final day of comment acceptance will be on the Public Notice Ending date shown above, 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-0039-25-07082025-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

401 Water Quality Certification Fact Sheet for 60 Ravinoaks

IEPA Log No. C-0039-25

Contact: Angie Sutton 217-782-9864

Linda and Richard Price have applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with placement of sand to nourish the beach in Lake Michigan at 60 Ravinoaks Lane in Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois. The project site can be found in Township 43N, Range 13E, Section 25. The proposed project would allow for up to 330 cubic yards (CY) of clean sand to be placed in 0.14 acres (Ac) of the existing beach or nearshore as sand nourishment annually or as necessary for 10 years. Currently, the beach consists primarily of pebbles that have washed in from the eroding lakebed. There is no exposed sand at this time and due to the sand starved environment, there is steep bank present. There is no quarystone breakwater present to provide shoreline sand maintenance and because of this, a determination will need to be made on a yearly basis as to whether sand nourishment will need to be completed.

The applicant is requesting a 10-year sand nourishment permit which would enable them to have the ability to mobilize up to 500 tons (330 CY) of sand annually if and when necessary to help maintain a stable beach. If there is no beach, the sand will be placed within 75 feet of the revetment toe and graded to a stable angle approximately 1v:10h.

This project will minimize impact to the maximum extent practicable. The proposed work is anticipated to be conducted both with marine-based and landside equipment and will be conducted in a manner that limits the potential for environmental impacts, therefore, compensatory mitigation is not planned.

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated January 29, 2025, May 13, 2025, and June 18, 2025.

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 IL_QLM-01, is listed on the 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for aesthetic quality with a potential cause given as total phosphorus, and fish consumption use with potential causes given as aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mercury, mirex, polychlorinated biphenyls, and toxaphene. Aquatic life, primary contact, and public and food processing water supply uses are fully supported.

Park Avenue Beach, Waterbody Segment IL_QJ-05, is listed on the 2024 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 for primary contact recreation use with potential cause given as E-coli.

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 May 15, 2013, report "Shoreline Segments in Suburban Lake County, Illinois" as a Beach Protection Area and is therefore subject to this 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 are a normal and unavoidable result of the placement of clean quarry sand beach fill. The fill material will be placed using a marine-based crane or backhoe to deliver clean sand, while a backhoe will work on land to place and grade the sand which is expected to fill 0.14 Ac.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in total suspended solids would be local and temporary, and existing aquatic life use in the shallow, nearshore zone will temporarily be disturbed but will recover over time. The proposed project will provide shoreline protection, as well as improve accessibility at this site. The proposed fill will improve the quality of the lakebed and water. This permit calls for up to 500 tons of sand to be placed annually or as needed for beach nourishment. The project has been designed to be adaptive to onsite sand conditions purposing beach nourishment only as needed to address loss of sand cover from year to year. Due to the nature of the project providing increased habitat and the minimal environmental impacts, no additional mitigation is proposed.

All material will be clean and from inland quarries. Approximately 500 tons of clean sand will be placed with maximum coverage below the visual Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) of 0.14 Ac. The marine contractor will sound the lakebed prior to mobilizing for this project. If there are sandbars, more trips will be made with smaller barges that draft less in order to avoid or reduce the quantity of sand to be relocated for access to the project site. If sand needs to be side cast to the south, the bucket will not break the plane of water during the side cast activity.

Sand nourishment will help to feed the local sand starved littoral system pending wave energy and storms. Additionally, benefits to sandy beaches include providing a better transitional environment for flora and fauna, filter non-point source runoff, reduce lakebed down cutting, provide wildlife habitat, and protect the lakebed from erosion that causes larger stormwaves to impact the shore.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The need for the project is a result of the prolonged high-water levels causing significant erosion and sand migration from the beach area. The purpose of the project is to provide sand nourishment to a stretch of the Lake Michigan shoreline replacing sand to lost due to erosion, and to restore natural bluff and beach protection to alleviate future erosion of the beach.

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

An alternative location was not considered as this is a private residence. Other alternatives that were considered included both a breakwater, and a breakwater island. However, neither of those options were determined to be the preferred alternative.

No Action Alternative:

If no action is taken, the beach area would be left in a constant state of ongoing erosion, and sand migration would continue, jeopardizing the stability of the beach area and adjacent shoreline.

Preferred Option:

This option involves implementation of a 10-year sand nourishment permit which would enable them to have the ability to mobilize up to 330 CY of clean sand annually if and when necessary to help maintain a stable beach. This is the option preferred for this project.

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

On June 18, 2025, the IDNR EcoCAT review was initiated for the project (Project # 2514397) and identified protected resources that may be in the vicinity of the proposed action. The Department has evaluated this information and concluded that adverse effects area unlikely. The consultation was terminated on June 30, 2025.

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 area by providing shoreline stabilization and sand nourishment to the eroding beach. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.