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:	**Public Notice Ending Date:**
Monday, December 29, 2025	Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Agency Log No.: C-0292-25

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. CEMVR-RD-2024-0674 is under the jurisdiction of Rock Island District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: Broadwing Energy, LLC, Kyle Braun - 750 Town and Country Blvd, #660, Houston, TX 77024

Discharge Location: In Section 31 of Township 17-North and Range 3-East of the West 3rd & East 3rd Principal Meridian in Macon County. Additional project location information includes the following: 3370 Hubbard Ave, Decatur, IL 62526

Name of Receiving Water:

Project Name/Description: Broadwing Energy Center Project - proposed construction of a cogeneration plant and associated heat recovery stream generator and CO2 Capture Plant

Construction Schedule: Immediate (Planned project duration is approximately 1184 days)

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.

Name: Webert Deslien Email: webert.deslien@illinois.gov Phone: 217/782-3362

Post Document. No. C-0292-25-12292025-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

401 Water Quality Certification Fact Sheet for Broadwing Energy LLC

IEPA Log No. C-0292-25

Contact: Angie Sutton 217-782-9864

Broadwing Energy, LLC has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with proposed cogeneration plant and associated heat recovery stream generator to provide electrical service to the adjacent ADM facility. The project will include an amine-based carbon capture processing unit which will remove carbon dioxide from the turbine exhaust and route the captured carbon dioxide into an injection well. The proposed project is located in Section 31, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Macon County, Illinois. The project site is located at 3370 Hubbard Avenue in Decatur. Construction within the 72.6-acre (Ac) project site will impact 22 linear feet (LF) of stream covering 0.002 acre of waters impact, and 0.543 Ac of wetland. The existing stream and its associated wetlands will be filled in with 6082 cubic yards (CY) of clean stone for the facility pad and rip rap for the stormwater outfall. Mitigation will be provided by the purchase of 0.543 wetland mitigation credits and 22.05 stream bank credits from the Sangamon River Wetland and Stream Mitigation Bank.

This project is authorized under Nationwide Permit 39; however, an Individual 401 certification will be completed as the project exceeds the 0.5 Ac restriction.

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated March 27, 2024, October 24, 2024, February 27, 2025, July 28, 2025, and July 29, 2025.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

The wetland delineation was performed by POWER Engineers, Inc. biologists on April 9 and 10, 2024, identified eight wetlands totaling 2.13 Ac and six streams totaling 2355 LF in the 72.6 Ac project area. The study area is located west of North Brush College Road and north of Hubbard Avenue and south of Hubbard Avenue in Decatur, Macon County, Illinois. The Subject Property is presently in agricultural use. The western half of the Subject Property is currently used to grow crops. The eastern half of the Subject Property is grass and is at a slightly higher elevation than the western portion. A small stand of trees is present along the north end with no structures observed.

The six streams, identified as STRM-01 through -06 are all unnamed tributary to Spring Creek, tributaries to waterbody segment IL_ESA-12. Impacts are expected in STRM-06. The unnamed tributaries to Spring Creek have 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. The unnamed tributaries to Spring Creek are classified as General Use Water. The unnamed tributaries to Spring Creek are not listed as 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 integrity ratings in that document. The unnamed tributaries to Spring Creek,

tributaries to Waterbody Segment IL_ESA-12, are not listed on the 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as they have not been assessed. The unnamed tributaries to Spring Creek are not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

Impacted streams and wetlands include both jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional waters. These are described as follows:

Stream 4 (STRM-04) is a non-jurisdictional,169 LF ephemeral stream located west of North Brush College Avenue. It has no ordinary high-water mark or defined bed and bank. There is no ditch, swale, pipe, or culvert under the access roadway and is a non-relatively permanent stream. Substrate is silt and clay, and the maximum pool depth is less than 5 cm. The riparian zone is greater than 10 meters and floodplain was identified to be immature forest, shrub or old field. No sinuosity was observed. Biological observations yielded no frogs, fish, salamanders or macroinvertebrates.

Stream 6 (STRM-06) is a jurisdictional, 846 LF perennial stream located north of the access road to the west of North Brush College Road. It possesses an ordinary highwater mark and a defined bed and bank. This stream has a relatively permanent flow and a downstream connection to the Sangamon River through a culvert. Substrate is gravel and silt, and the maximum pool depth is between 0.4 and 0.7 meters. The riparian zone has little to no eroded areas with a width of 5 to 10 meters and no sinuosity was observed. Floodplain was observed to be open pasture or row crop. Water appears to be directed from the gravel entry road, nearby ditches and agricultural fields into the stream. No aquatic macroinvertebrates, amphibians, or reptiles were observed. Water appears to be stagnant with a layer of algae and film on the surface.

Wetland 3 (WET-03) is a jurisdictional 0.37-acre forested wetland (PFO) directly abutting Stream 6. It has a continuous surface connection to a downstream RPW. Dominant species were observed to be Black Willow *(Salix nigra)* and Reed Canary Grass *(Phalaris arundinacea)*. The Mean C value was 3.4 and the FQI value 7.6.

Wetland 4 (WET-04) is a non-jurisdictional 0.74-acre emergent wetland (PEM) located in a roadside drainage ditch. It has a continuous surface connection to a tributary but was formed in a roadside ditch constructed in uplands to drain uplands. Dominant species were observed to be Kentucky Blue Grass (*Poa pratensis)* and Curly Dock *(Rumex crispus)* giving the wetland a Mean C value of 2.0 and an FQI of 2.83.

Wetland 5 (WET-05) is a non-jurisdictional 0.17-acre emergent wetland (PEM) west of North Brush College Road. It does not have a continuous surface connection to a tributary as the site visit confirmed there is no ditch, swale, pipe, culvert, or discrete confined feature to provide a continuous surface connection to an RPW. There is an upland area between WET-04 and WET-05 with no connection between the two. Dominant species at this wetland was Kentucky Bluegrass giving the wetland a Mean C and FQI value of 0.

Wetland 6 (WET-06) is a jurisdictional 0.53-acre emergent wetland (PEM) that has a continuous surface connection through an approximately 70 LF culvert under the access road to Stream 6. Wetland 6 is a continuation of Wetland 3 that connects through a culvert under the road. The two wetlands have similar soils, high water tables, surface water, and vegetation. The distance of 70 LF of the culvert is physically close enough to be considered adjacent. Wetland 6 is 240 linear feet from Stream 6. Dominant species were observed to be Black Willow *(Salix nigra)* and Reed Canary Grass *(Phalaris arundinacea)*. The Mean C value was 3.4 and the FQI value 7.6.

Wetland 7 (WET-07) is a non-jurisdictional 0.02-acre forested wetland (PFO) west of North Brush College Road. It is a depressional wetland surrounded by uplands. It does not have a continuous surface connection to a tributary as the site visit confirmed there is no ditch, swale, pipe, culvert, or discrete confined feature to provide a continuous surface connection to an RPW. It does not meet the definition of a wetland. Dominant vegetation consisted of Eastern Cottonwood *(Populus deltoides)*. The Mean C value was 0.5 and the FQI value 0.71.

Of the six streams onsite, impacts are expected in STRM-04 and STRM-06 with STRM-06 considered jurisdictional. Of the eight wetlands identified, impacts are expected in WET-03 through -08, with WET-03 and WET-06 considered jurisdictional.

Feature ID	Size in Project Area (LF or Ac)	Impact Size * (LF or Ac)		Jurisdictional? (Y/N)
		Temporary	Permanent	
STRM-01	1019	N/A	N/A	Y
STRM-02	21	N/A	N/A	N
STRM-03	283	N/A	N/A	N
STRM-04	169	N/A	169	N
STRM-05	17	N/A	N/A	Y
STRM-06	846	22	22	Y
Totals	**2355 LF**	**22 LF**	**191 LF**	
WET-01	0.21	N/A	N/A	N
WET-02	0.07	N/A	N/A	N
WET-03	0.37	0.006	0.015	Y
WET-04	0.74	N/A	0.155	N
WET-05	0.167	N/A	0.167	N
WET-06	0.53	N/A	0.528	Y
WET-07	0.023	N/A	0.023	N
WET-08	0.019	N/A	0.019	N
Totals	**2.129 Ac**	**0.006 Ac**	**0.907 Ac**	

* Stream size and impacts are listed as linear feet (LF)/ wetland size and impacts are listed as acres (Ac)

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 placement of fill in the Waters of the U.S. (WOUS).

Permanent stream impacts would occur in 22 LF of Stream 6 for fill to construct a stream crossing, 0.015 Ac of Wetland 3 for fill for a facility gravel pad and stormwater outfall, and 0.528 Ac of Wetland 6 for fill for a facility gravel pad. Temporary impacts will occur in 22 LF of Stream 6 and 0.006 Ac of Wetland 3 for a temporary stream crossing. The total amount of fill proposed is 6082 cubic yards (CY) of clean stone and rip rap.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

Construction activity has been designed to minimize temporary permanent impacts to approximately 1.59 acres of delineated wetlands. Avoided features will be protected with timber matting, filter sock, and construction barrier fencing during. Temporarily disturbed areas will be returned to pre-construction conditions, contours, seeded and stabilized upon completion of construction. This is described in the Project Wetland and Stream Restoration Plan included as part of the application documents. Compensatory mitigation at a 1:1 ratio is required for permanent fill in the PEM and PFO wetlands, and the perennial stream. The applicant has purchased 0.545 mitigation credits through the Sangamon River and Wetland Mitigation Bank. The signed Mitigation Contract is included as part of the application documents.

Best management practices will be implemented during construction and operation of the facility in compliance with all state and federal water quality standards. Proposed stormwater exiting the site is not anticipated to degrade water quality. Inspections will be initiated prior to the start of earth disturbance. Construction will be completed using bull dozers and smaller equipment for grading, excavators and cranes for installation of larger infrastructure. Additional smaller equipment will be utilized as needed for construction. Final surface conditions on-site will vary depending on location, with areas of vegetation, gravel and asphalt proposed outside of structures and other infrastructure. The Project will utilize existing soil on-site to achieve the required subgrade, overlain with vegetation, gravel or asphalt bases around proposed infrastructure.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of the Project is to construct a cogeneration plant and associated heat recovery steam generator to provide electrical service to the adjacent ADM facility. The Project will include an amine-based carbon capture processing unit which will remove carbon dioxide from the turbine exhaust and route the captured carbon dioxide into an injection well.

The Broadwing project will have an economic impact of more than $1 billion, benefiting Decatur, Macon County and the surrounding area. During construction, the proposed project will create 1,500 full-time union jobs. Once online, the plant workforce will consist of approximately 30 full-time operations and maintenance jobs.

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

The property for the proposed project is owned by ADM and adjacent to an ADM facility. The location will help fulfil that facility's energy requirements and minimize the distance for power transmission, reducing energy loss and improving efficiency. The location was selected to avoid residential areas which minimizes potential local community impacts.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the project would not proceed. The industrial facility would continue to rely on existing power sources, which may not be as efficient or practical.

Alternative Site Locations: Alternative site locations could reduce the proposed impacts, but this is not feasible as there is limited suitable land near the facility. If a site was located further from the facility, it could incur additional impacts as components of the project would still need to reach the facility.

Modified Project Design: Modification of the project design to reduce the footprint and minimize impacts on the wetland area was considered. This alternative would involve optimizing the layout of the project and associated components to minimize wetland impacts. However, facility design

requirements for the proposed project make significant modifications to the layout unfeasible and because of this, a modified project design was not considered further.

Preferred Alternative: The preferred alternative is to construct the project as proposed. Mitigation measures will be implemented to compensate for any unavoidable wetland impacts. The proposed project best meets the purpose and need of the project and provides efficient and effective energy to the nearby industrial facility.

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 March 27, 2024 (Project # 2412302). A consultation termination was automatically generated siting no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, INAI sites, dedicated

Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location was identified.

The US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) species list (Project Code 2024-0057399) contains a total of 7 listed species. The listed species include:

- Indiana Bat *(Myotis sodalis)*-Endangered
- Northern Long-eared Bat *(Myotis septentrionalis)*-Endangered
- Tricolor Bat *(Perimyotis subflavus)*-Proposed Endangered
- Whooping Crane *(Grus americana)*-Experimental Population, Non-Essential
- Salamander Mussel *(Simpsonaias ambigua)*-Proposed Endangered
- Monarch Butterfly *(Danaus plexippus)*
- Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid *(Platanthera leucophaea)*

There were no critical habitats within the project area. On March 27, 2024, POWER requested technical assistance from USFWS to determine potential impacts from the proposed project. A response from the USFWS has not been received; however, concerning the listed bat species, the applicant states that "the USFWS typically recommends that tree clearing be avoided wherever possible, and that the removal of any trees 3.0 inches or more in diameter at breast height only occur between October 1 and March 31".

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 jobs as well as providing electrical service to the adjacent ADM facility. The facility will potentially contribute to improved air quality with carbon capture and storage. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.