

**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: Thursday, June 25, 2026

Public Notice Ending Date: Thursday, July 9, 2026

Agency Log No.: C-0075-26

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. LRL-2026-00167 is under the jurisdiction of Louisville District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: City of Metropolis, Gregg Jeffords - 106 W. 5th St., Metropolis, IL 62960

Discharge Location: In Section 29 of Township 15-South and Range 5-East of the West 3rd Principal Meridian in Massac County. Additional project location information includes the following: adjacent to Interstate 24, approx. 1 mile north of US 45, Metropolis, IL 62960

Name of Receiving Water: Massac Creek

Project Name/Description: Metropolis Industrial Park Expansion - proposed construction of two new roadways, including North Park Road, to extend the Metropolis Industrial Park northward. The new alignment will require a culvert crossing of one jurisdictional stream and the relocation of another to join the main channel just north of the roadway

Construction Schedule: Not identified

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-0075-26-06252026-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

401 Water Quality Certification Fact Sheet for Metropolis Industrial Park Expansion

IEPA Log No. C-0075-26

Contact: Angie Sutton 217-782-9864

This memo amends my June 18, 2026 memo to more clearly reflect the project impacts.

The City of Metropolis has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with construction of two roadways that will extend the industrial park to the north (North Park Road) which will begin at the current end of East Industrial Park Road, extending west. The project will be constructed in Township 15 South, Range 5 East, Section 29, Massac County Illinois. The project area is approximately one mile north of US 45, adjacent to Interstate 24.

The new street will begin at the current northern limit of East Park Road and extend west to the intersection of Devers Road. Devers Road will be extended from its current limit at Gurley Road to the north to meet the new intersection. The typical section of both proposed roadways includes two 12' wide travel lanes of 8" concrete pavement and 6' wide, 8" thick asphalt shoulders. The entire 36' paved width will be supported by a 6" compacted aggregate base and 12" of lime modified soil mixture. A box culvert will convey one of the impacted streams underneath the new roadway. The other impacted stream will be relocated to a ditch adjacent to the new roadway.

There are no impacts to wetlands, and impacts to streams are temporary and permanent impacts. No mitigation is required for this project as the permanent impacts to streams are less than 0.1 acre (Ac).

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated November 10, 2025, April 2026, and June 8, 2026.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Stream 3 and Stream 4, tributaries to Massac Creek, have 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions and are classified as General Use Waters. The tributaries to Massac 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 an integrity rating in that document. The tributaries to Massac Creek, tributaries to Waterbody Segment, IL_AE, are not listed on the 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List since they have not been assessed. The tributaries to Massac Creek are not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

The USGS Illinois Streamstats basin characteristics program gives a watershed size of 0.27 square miles for Stream 3, and 0.06 square miles for Stream 4 at the project site. According to the Illinois State Water Survey, the tributaries to Massac Creek in the area of the proposed stream crossing and stream realignment 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 5 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.

No wetlands were identified in the project area.

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 grading, culvert placement, and redirection of the stream are expected as a result of the proposed project. No permanent increases in pollutant loading are anticipated.

Stream 4 currently flows southwest and empties into Stream 3 just south of the proposed improvements. With the construction of North Park Road, 300 linear feet (LF) of Stream 4 will be relocated to flow into the northern road ditch, which drains to the upstream side of proposed Stream 3 culvert. A total of 0.021 Ac of impacts will occur as a result of filling in the stream segment with earth embankment to build the roadway. Tree removal in this area is estimated to be 0.28 Ac.

Impacts to Stream 3 include a 12' x 6' concrete box culvert to pipe approximately 73 LF of the tributary under the proposed roadway as well as placement of earthen fill for a total of 0.025 Ac impacted. Additionally, 0.014 Ac of rip rap will be placed at the culvert ends. Tree removal in this area is estimated to be 0.38 Ac.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in total suspended solids would be temporary and short-term increases. Although a portion of the existing stream is to be filled in, it is expected that the proposed unavoidable impacts to the unnamed tributary will not cause loss to aquatic habitat or function or create any new or increased pollutant loading. The proposed project has been designed to protect existing uses of the affected waters. Impacts to surface waters associated with construction are temporary and localized. The fill impacts to the streams will be permanent; however, the acreage filled as a result of the stream relocation and culvert placement does not meet the threshold that requires compensatory mitigation. Temporary impacts to existing uses will be addressed in construction and are expected to be fully restored following the completion of the project.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will include seeding of the northern road ditch to establish vegetation. Silt fencing and inlet protection will also be used as temporary site controls during construction, and riprap will be installed in Stream 3 for permanent erosion control. Instream work will be done during periods of

low flow. Erosion and sediment control methods will be incorporated, including inlet protection and silt blankets.

The proposed box culvert has been sized appropriately for the combined flows of the rerouted Stream 4 portion into the existing Stream 3. The culvert is being intentionally set 6" below existing flowline elevations on both sides to promote reestablishment of the natural streambed inside in the culvert and promote aquatic life. The culvert is also being skewed to match the angle that the existing channel crosses the alignment. Once construction is completed, the streambed is expected to recover fully.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of this project is to expand infrastructure in the Metropolis Industrial Park. Expansion in the area will include construction of a new roadway connecting the existing East Industrial Park Road to the proposed Devers Road extension. The proposed project will also include an extension of existing water and sewer infrastructure.

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

A no-build alternative was considered; however, this option would fail to expand the roadway or associated water and sewer infrastructure to the Industrial Park area. This alternative was determined to not meet the purpose and need of the project and therefore was not chosen as the preferred alternative.

Road alignment alternatives were evaluated in order to determine if impacts to Stream 3 and Stream 4 could be avoided or minimized. However, shifting the alignment would require additional grading as the proposed alignment follows a previously established right of way. This would not be cost effective compared to the proposed alignment and will still require stream crossings due to site constraints and existing drainage patterns. An alternative road alignment was chosen as the preferred alternative for these reasons.

Stream crossing alternatives evaluated included installing an additional culvert in Stream 4 under the proposed roadway. However, rerouting of the stream reduced impacts and minimized instream structures and additional fill. An additional culvert would also cause increased sediment due to construction. For these reasons, alternative stream crossings were not chosen as the preferred alternative.

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 November 10, 2025 (Project # 2607254). The natural resource review provided by EcoCAT identified protected resources that may be in the vicinity of the proposed action. The Department has evaluated this information and concluded that adverse effects are unlikely. Therefore, consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated.

Records for the state-listed Indiana Bat are indicated in the project area. To avoid impacts to the Indiana Bat, the Department recommends any required tree clearing be done between November 1st and March 31st.

The Department offers conservation measures to help protect native wildlife and enhance natural areas in the project vicinity. These include:

- Any required night lighting should follow International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) guidance to minimize the effect of light pollution on wildlife.
- The project proponent should consider native plantings in the landscape design, when feasible.

Coordination with Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was initiated on April 24, 2025 (SHPO Log# 041041725). A Phase 1 cultural resource survey was conducted by Prairie Archaeology and Research, Ltd. per SHPO request. The report completed May 14, 2026, found that no significant cultural, historical, or archaeological sites, artifacts, or objects which may be adversely impacted by direct or indirect activities related to the proposed project were identified. No further investigations were recommended. Project clearance was recommended for the proposed project.

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 expanding infrastructure in the Metropolis Industrial Park. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.