

**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, February 26, 2026

Public Notice Ending Date:

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Agency Log No.: C-0273-24

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. LRC-2023-00729 is under the jurisdiction of Chicago District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: Chicago Department of Transportation, Moira Kent - 2 N LaSalle St, Suite 820, Chicago, IL 60602

Discharge Location: In Section 6 of Township 37-North and Range 15-East of the East 3rd Principal Meridian in Cook County. Additional project location information includes the following: 95th Street Bridge over Calumet River, Chicago, IL 60617

Name of Receiving Water: Calumet River

Project Name/Description: 95th Street Bascule Bridge over Calumet River - State job C-88-002-23 - proposed scope of work includes the in-kind superstructure replacement of portions of the Bascule (movable) span and fixed approach spans due to deterioration

Construction Schedule: Immediate (Planned project duration is approximately 669 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.

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Post Document. No. C-0273-24-02262026-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

401 Water Quality Certification Fact Sheet for 95th Street Bascule Bridge

IEPA Log No. C-0273-24

Contact: Angie Sutton 217-782-9864

The Chicago Department of Transportation is proposing a comprehensive bridge rehabilitation or replacement to the existing 95th Street Bascule Bridge and installation of a new submarine cable across the Calumet River. The existing superstructure is deteriorating, and the project would address needed mechanical and electrical system updates. The proposed project will include replacement of portions of the movable span and fixed approach spans, as well as repairs to river and anchor piers, abutment, and counterweight pits. A new submarine cable will be installed across the Calumet River riverbed connecting the East Bridge House and the West Auxiliary Control House. Other rehabilitation work is limited to interior building mechanical/electrical systems and exterior architectural repairs.

The bridge construction project has been authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) using Nationwide Permit (NWP) 15 (U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges) to satisfy federal CWA § 404 permitting requirements. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) also regulates this activity under its own authority; therefore, a state water quality certification under CWA § 401 is required for the USCG permit process. Until recent changes to the 401 certification rules pursuant to 40 CFR 121, USCG would satisfy its permitting criteria by using an existing water quality certification issued for a USACE permit, provided the project's permitted activities are identical. Given these procedural changes, it is necessary for the proponent to seek a separate CWA § 401 water quality certification for the pending USCG permit even though this Agency has already evaluated and made a final determination that the activity would meet all applicable water quality requirements.

No excavation or dredging, foundation, or structural work is proposed in the waterway. No dredged material is proposed for discharge. The bridge and submarine cable span the Calumet River; however, the only fill proposed being approximately 32 cubic yards (CY) of riprap to cover the submarine cable. The limits of disturbance from the riprap will total 0.1 Ac.

The Calumet River is classified as a Chicago Area Waterway System Aquatic Life Use A Water. The Calumet River 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. The Calumet River, Waterbody Segment IL_HAA-01, is listed on the 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) as impaired for fish consumption with potential causes given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls, and primary contact use with a potential cause given as fecal coliform. Aquatic life use is fully supported. This segment of the Calumet River is not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

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 community by providing continued transportation mobility in the area. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.