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:**
Friday, January 23, 2026	Friday, February 20, 2026

Agency Log No.: C-0334-25

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. CEMVR-RD-2025-734 is under the jurisdiction of Rock Island District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: Waste Connections, Thomas Hilbert - 5450 Wansford Way, Suite 201, Rockford, IL 61109

Discharge Location: In Section 22 of Township 40-North and Range 2-East of the East 4th & East 3rd Principal Meridian in Ogle County. Additional project location information includes the following: 6513 South Mulford Road, Rochelle, IL 61068

Name of Receiving Water: Unnamed tributary ditch to Kyte River

Project Name/Description: Rochelle Landfill Waste Disposal Ditch Relocation - proposed temporary impact to 643 lineal feet of the drainage way by regrading/reshaping and will become part of a new water pass through system around the east and south portions of the landfill

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-0334-25-01232026-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

401 Water Quality Certification Fact Sheet for Rochelle Landfill

IEPA Log No. C-0334-25

Contact: Angie Sutton 217-782-9864

Waste Connections has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for impacts associated with their proposed relocation of the North Drainageway at the Rochelle Landfill Waste Disposal Property. The project site is located at 6513 South Mulford Road, Rochelle, in Section 22, Township 40 North, Range 2 East, Ogle County, Illinois. The Applicant proposes to develop a 105.51-acre parcel of land for the expansion of an existing landfill. The existing landfill is anticipated to reach capacity in 2027. The expansion project will result in permanent impacts as a result of filling, excavation, and relocation of 2744 linear feet (LF) of stream, and temporary impacts will occur to 643 LF of stream through excavating/grading. The 643 LF portion proposed to undergo excavation/grading will become a part of the new drainageway (which will also consist of the existing south drainageway) to be constructed to convey the off-property water around the east and south side of the landfill. The ditch impacts will be temporary and once construction is complete the ditch will continue the role of conveying water around the landfill. The proposed project will require the purchase of 11,854 stream mitigation credits for the impacts to the 2744 LF of the North Reach. No compensatory mitigation is proposed for the 643 LF. The western 813 linear feet of the North Reach drainageway widens to about 8 feet at South Mulford Road and will remain intact. Once the project is completed, the rerouted tributary will be approximately 1650 feet in length. Overall, the proposed project will affect approximately 3387 feet of the North Reach drainageway.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC performed a wetland and waterway survey on June 18th, 2024. Wetlands in the project area were below the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM) and as a result, incorporated within the OHWM Boundary. Two waterway features were delineated within the project area (Waterway 1 and Waterway 2) totaling approximately 1.92 acres (Ac). The waterways are the same drainage ditch separated by a road and culvert. The onsite wetland where the drainageway enters the landfill facility will not be impacted from the proposed project.

The North Reach drainageway is an unnamed tributary of the Kyte River, an unnamed tributary to Waterbody Segment IL_PL-99. The North Reach drainageway has 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions and is classified as General Use Water. The North Reach drainageway 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 North Reach drainageway (tributary to IL_PL-99), is not listed on the 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as it has not been assessed. This segment of the North Reach drainageway is not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

The North Reach drainageway runs for 4200 LF inside the Rochelle Landfill property starting from the railroad tracks at the north end and ending at the box culvert under South Mulford Road at the west end. North Reach drainageway conveys off property water from farm fields north of the railroad and also receives water from along the south side of the railroad and north side of an existing top-soil stockpile. The drainageway continues south and has a 2- to 4-foot-wide bed with a few areas where small shelf wetlands, dominated mostly by reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), have formed. The North Reach then turns west where artificial banks have formed from the heavy presence of sandbar willow (Salix interior), then exiting the Landfill property at the box culvert under South Mulford Road. Water several inches in depth was flowing in a 4- to 5-foot-wide channel along the delineated waterway. The bottom was comprised mostly of sand with small pebbles/gravel in several locations. Small, unidentified fish were observed in the waterway.

The USGS Illinois Streamstats basin characteristics program gives a watershed size of 0.86 square miles at the discharge point on the unnamed tributary of Kyte River. According to the Illinois State Water Survey, the unnamed tributary of Kyte River in the area of the proposed 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 1 square mile 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 would be found. Given this flow regime, no additional biological characterization is required.

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 (TSS) during construction. Although fill will eliminate existing habitat, the stream is already highly degraded and supports limited aquatic life. Best Management Practices will be utilized to minimize any increases in TSS during construction.

Material excavated from the 643 LF portion will be placed in a non-wetland area. The central 2075 LF of the north reach will be permanently impacted from excavation of approximately 122,000 cubic yards (CY) of soil. A 524 LF portion and a 145 LF portion on the opposites end of the excavated section will be filled permanently with approximately 6500 CY of clean soil fill. The 813 LF section will not be impacted by the proposed expansion. Soil erosion control measures are required to be in place prior to construction therefore loading increases above current levels are not expected.

Erosion control and sediment runoff prevention will be implemented as part of the facility's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) under the active NPDES permit (Log No. IL0075451). Best management practices (BMPs) outlined in the SWPPP will be applied during construction and operation to minimize soil loss and manage stormwater in compliance with applicable water quality standards.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in TSS due to construction activities will be local and temporary as a result of implementation of erosion and sediment control measures to prevent further impact to the stream. Landfill runoff will be collected in a surface drainage system and directed to the west stormwater settling pond prior to release to a culvert passing under Mulford Road. Offsite drainage/stormwater that enters the site will be transported around the landfill expansion by way of the rerouted North Reach drainageway where it will then be discharged to a box culvert under Mulford Road. The rerouted North Reach will be longer in length and have a larger cross-section flow area. Because of this, the flow velocities are expected to be less thus minimizing erosion, increasing settling, and ultimately reducing the potential for increased loading.

To compensate for the loss of the 2744 LF of the North Reach drainageway water conveyance through filling and excavation, and the temporary impact to 643 LF of excavated waterway, the applicant proposes to purchase 11,854 stream mitigation credits from an approved stream mitigation bank in the same watershed as the landfill.

The 122,000 CY of excavated soil is expected to be used for construction of a perimeter access road and other landfill construction activities during relocation of the drainageway. If any stockpiling of excavated material is necessary, the material will be used for landfill cover as needed. Any potential return water will be directed to the previously permitted onsite sediment basin.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

It is anticipated that the current landfill will reach capacity by the end of 2027. This project will construct an expansion at an existing landfill operation resulting in the addition of approximately 105.51 Ac of additional footprint increase. The proposed project will provide the area with waste disposal capacity until 2040. The project is needed to provide continued and uninterrupted solid waste services to the City of Rochelle and surrounding communities in an environmentally safe manner in a permitted solid waste facility.

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

The applicant considered the following alternatives:

Alternative 1 - No Build Alternative – This alternative would result in no construction and no impacts to the North Reach drainageway as no new landfill cells would be developed. This would not meet the project purpose and need of continued waste service to the surrounding communities. For this reason, this alternative was determined not to be feasible.

Alternative 2 – This alternative involves construction of a new northern route for the drainageway along the south side of the railroad then turning south along South Mulford Road to connect to the box culvert. After review, it was determined that this design was not technically feasible and was too space constrained. Due to the proximity to the railroad and existing landfill footprint, and closeness to South Mulford Road, including close distance to the expansion area, it was determined that this was not a feasible alternative.

Alternative 3 – (Preferred Alternative) – This alternative would construct the landfill expansion, directly impacting 2744 LF through filling and excavation in order to create the expansion cells and temporarily impacting 643 LF for construction of the new bypass drainageway around the facility. The drainageway would be relocated along the eastern boundary of the landfill to connect to an existing drainageway located along the east and south boundary of the landfill. This alternative meets the project purpose and need, provides for sufficient landfill life, landfill infrastructure, meets all landfill sitting requirements and is identified in both the County's solid waste plan and 2030 Land Resource Land Management Plan. The preferred alternative minimized wetland impacts by reducing the original project boundary and confines the footprint and landfill infrastructure to the current plan.

Alternative 4 – (New Greenfield Location) – Neither the City of Rochelle and nor Rochelle Landfill Waste Disposal, LLC were able to find any new greenfield sites within a 40-mile radius of the City within the corporate boundary limits. Hauls longer than a 40-mile radius increased transportation costs outside of the non-competitive level. Permitting a new greenfield landfill can be difficult, additionally, extensive infrastructure would be required. Often a new site would be further from an urban center, thus increasing hauling costs. New greenfield landfill sites are not addressed by the Olge County Solid Waste Management Plan. Alternative 4 was not assessed further.

Several factors were considered during assessment of the project alternatives. The applicant made selections based on the level of need for the service area and the long-term contracts for disposal that are in place. It was determined that the expansion would provide 6.7 million tons of additional disposal capacity. The existing site is also strategically located, properly zoned, and has existed for decades. Current traffic patterns for waste disposal trucks have already been established and roads are maintained with this traffic in mind. Additionally, configuration of the existing facility does not allow for expansion in any other direction.

Surrounding land uses were also considered. The current landfill is north of and adjacent to the proposed expansion. Upon closure, it would fit within the context of open space recreation. Due to the proximity of the Union Pacific line, no incompatible other uses or development will be possible in the area. East of Interstate 39 and south of Highway 38 contain areas that may potentially be used to expand existing industrial uses, as indicated by the City of Rochelle Comprehensive Plan Update 2023. The landfill would not be incompatible with these proposed industrial uses. Southerly land usage is agricultural and therefore, no barriers to continued agricultural use should exist. Based on an independent land use and planning analysis by the Lannert Group, Inc., the facility is located so as to minimize incompatibility with the character of

the surrounding area. Several alternative landfill expansion configurations on the existing expansion property were evaluated but did not provide feasible alternatives to 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 on April 24, 2024 (Project #2413645) to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for project area. An automatic termination was issued as the Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location.

An IPaC Summary by the USFWS dated April 28, 2025, listed the following threatened and endangered species that may occur in the proposed project location:

Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis) – Endangered - No Hibernacula is known on the landfill property and no summer roosting habitat occurs in or near the proposed adverse impacted Reaches (2,744 linear feet of fill and 643 lineal feet of excavation) and thus "no species habitat or species [are] present"

Whooping Crane (Grus americana) – Experimental Population, Non-Essential - No suitable whooping crane habitat if found along the North Reach or other areas of the landfill and thus "no species habitat or species [are] present"

Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) – Proposed Threatened - The landfill open space is highly disturbed and there is a potential for individual common milkweed to be present, but "no species habitat or species [are] present"

Western Regal Fritillary (Argynnis idalia occidentalis) – Proposed Threatened - The landfill open space is highly disturbed and there is no native bunch grass prairie, no known violets to be present, and few if any nectar plants, as such "no species habitat or species [are] present"

Eastern Prairie Fringed (Orchid Platanthera leucophaea) - Threatened -The landfill open space is highly disturbed and there are no high-quality wetlands, no native prairie or fens, and as such "no species habitat or species [are] present".

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 antidegradation review summary was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of

water quality standards; that all existing uses of the receiving waters will be maintained; 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 project will benefit the community at large by providing continued and uninterrupted solid waste services to the City of Rochelle and surrounding communities in an environmentally safe manner in a permitted solid waste facility. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.