

IEPA Log No.: **C-0412-10**  
CoE appl. #: **2010-385**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **May 6, 2011**  
Public Notice Ending Date: **June 6, 2011**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act  
Amendments of 1972

**Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State**

**Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:**

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Bureau of Water  
Permit Section  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
Post Office Box 19276  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
217/782-3362

**Name and Address of Discharger:** City of Chicago Department of Water Management 1000 E. Ohio Street, Chicago, IL.60611

**Discharge Location:** Sec. 11, T40N, R13E, 3<sup>rd</sup> P.M., Cook County within Chicago

**Name of Receiving Water:** Chicago River North Branch

**Project Description:** Albany Park drainage improvements

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

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 call Keith Runge at 217/782-3362.

Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment

RE: City of Chicago, Department of Water Management

County: Cook

IEPA Log #C-0412-10

COE Log #LRC-2010-00385

Contact: Mark T. Books at 217/558-2012

May 6, 2011

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City of Chicago, Department of Water Management (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for the installation of five stormwater outfalls into the Chicago River North Branch in Section 11, Township 40 North, Range 13 East. The project consists of the installation of five new storm water outfalls in order to separate the storm water flow from the combined sewers. The total work site consists of about 4.5 acres. The outfalls will be specifically located at North Ridgeway Avenue, North Lawndale Avenue, 2 outfalls on North Monticello Avenue (one on the north side of the river and one on the south side of the river) and North Spaulding Avenue. Each outfall location will drain about one city block into the Chicago River North Branch.

**Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.**

The Chicago River North Branch is a General Use Water with a 7Q10 flow of approximately 13.5cfs at this location. The Chicago River North Branch, Waterbody Segment IL-HCC-07 is found on the 2010 Illinois 303(d) List as impaired for aquatic life, fish consumption, and primary contact recreation. The potential causes of impairment to aquatic life use include Aldrin, Chloride, DDT, Hexachlorobenzene, TSS, and Phosphorus (total). The potential cause for fish consumption use is PCB's and the potential cause for primary contact recreation use is Fecal Coliform. The river at this location is not listed as biologically significant water body in the Illinois Natural History Survey publication Biologically Significant Illinois Streams. The river at this location is also not an enhanced dissolved oxygen stream. Chicago River North Branch has a drainage area of approximately 111.75 square miles at the project site.

Total area of permanent impacts (rip-rap at the outfalls) will be approximately 0.007 acres. The total area of temporary impacts, due to erosion control blankets, will be approximately 0.05 acres.

The IDNR WIRT System did not list any state threatened or endangered aquatic species residing 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 suspended solids during the construction of the project. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in suspended solids.

**Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.**

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in suspended solids and prevent further impact to the stream. Aquatic life uses of this portion of the river should not be impacted during construction because all the outfalls will be installed above the normal water line.

**Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.**

Applicant has stated the following:

“The local sewers are subject to possible basement flooding for the 6-month and 1-year frequency storm events due to limited capacity of the mainline sewer in adjacent Argyle Street. Those storm frequencies equate to rainfall amounts about 0.5 inches in 10 minutes, and between 0.75 to 0.95 inches of rain in 30 minutes. Thus, for any storms with rainfall in those amounts and timeframes, the residents’ basements may experience flooding. Another major benefit of the project is the disconnection of storm water flow from the City’s combined sewers, which will help to decrease combined sewer overflow (CSO) events throughout the system.”

The Applicant has also indicated that three of the roads current storm sewer inlets are below the 100 year flood event level for the river, allowing flood water to enter the sewer system.

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

The construction of the proposed project will follow conditions set forth by the Agency and USACE. Erosion control measures will need to be implemented to prevent additional impacts to the stream. The only other alternative is to not complete this project which is unacceptable due the flooding that occurs in the residence homes and the benefit of reduced CSO events after this project is completed. The Applicant has stated that each outfall will have a catch basin installed and the basins will be put onto the City’s Catch Basin Maintenance program for routine cleaning.

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

In a report generated through the IDNR’s EcoCAT system dated April 7, 2011, 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 & Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location; therefore, consultation is terminated.

**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 activity will benefit the community at large by reducing CSO discharges and flooding in residence’s home.

Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.