

IEPA Log No.: **C-0632-10**
CoE appl. #: **2010-1054**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **March 15, 2011**
Public Notice Ending Date: **April 14, 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
Facility Evaluation Unit
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Illinois Department of Transportation 126 E. Ash Springfield, IL 62704-4792

Discharge Location: Sec. 2, T19N, R3W, 3rd P.M., Logan County South of Lincoln

Name of Receiving Water: Salt Creek

Project Description: Replace bridge carrying I-55BL over Salt Creek.

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.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
RE: IDOT-I-55BL County: Logan
IEPA Log #C-0632-10
COE Log #CEMVR-OD-P-2010-1054
Contact: Mark T. Books at 217/558-2012
March 15, 2011

The Illinois Department of Transportation (“Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for I55 Business Loop (“BL”) bridge replacement over Salt Creek, located in Section 2, Township 19 North, Range 3 West, just Southwest of Lincoln. A temporary causeway or work platform consisting of clean aggregate may be required to perform the work to facilitate removal and replacement of the existing structure and will be determined at the time of construction. Approximately 2,137 cubic yards (5,200 square yards) of excavation on the stream bank will be required for the placement of approximately 1,700 cubic yards of class A5 riprap on the banks adjacent to the new piles; however, no riprap will be put into the channel because Salt Creek at this location is an Illinois Natural Area Inventory (“INAI”) site. The existing piers within the stream channel will be removed. The new piers will not be located within the stream channel. The proposed new piers will be built behind the existing piers along the stream bank. Removal of the old piers within the stream channel will be done in a manner that minimizes stream impacts. Care will be taken when removing the piles to minimize items falling into the creek and to ensure that all items which do fall into the creek are removed. Normal low flows will be maintained during construction. Temporary cofferdams may be required to conduct the work. All in-stream activities will be accomplished in a good workmanship manner with minimum stream disturbance, as much as possible. The stream channel will be cleaned within the right of way limits upon completion of the project.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Salt Creek is a General Use Water with an estimated 7Q10 flow of 26.4 cfs. Salt Creek at the project location is an enhanced waterbody pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard. Using the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, Salt Creek at this location is not listed as a biologically significant stream; however it has received an integrity rating of “C”. Salt Creek Waterbody Segment IL_EL-03 is identified as fully supporting aquatic life use. Salt Creek has a drainage area of approximately 835.33 square miles at the project site. Biological characterization of the stream has not been required because the project will not permanently alter the existing stream habitat conditions. This project will permanently impact 0.32 acre of a 0.5 acre PFO1C wetland (and relic oxbow). The mitigation of the affected wetland will be at the LaGrange Wetland Bank. Since this wetland bank is outside the project’s basin, a 2.0:1 ratio will be used for a total of 0.64 acre (0.32 acre x 2.0 = 0.64 acre) of credit for the permanent impacts. The project will eliminate the current habitat from the impacted wetland area.

The IDNR WIRT System does not list any 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. Aquatic life uses in the portion of the creek that will be disturbed during construction may be negatively impacted, but in time, they will recover and support approximately the same community structure as is now found in the existing channel. Removing the piers from within the stream will also be beneficial to the aquatic life.

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. Construction for the proposed project will occur during a period of low flow to further minimize any impact.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

This project will replace the existing I-55BL Bridge over Salt Creek due to its poor condition. Upon completion of the project, I-55BL at this location will exhibit improved safety due to the bridge's improved structural capacity.

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

The construction of the proposed project will follow condition set forth by the Agency and USACE. Erosion control measures will need to be implemented to prevent additional impacts to the stream. The least intrusive alternative would be to not replace the bridge. This is not an acceptable alternative due to the condition of the bridge and potential hazard to the travelling public. The Applicant has stated that the profile of a new bridge must be elevated to compensate for a 50 year flood event of Salt Creek due to IDOT's Standards. As a result of raising the profile of the bridge, 0.32 acres of wetland will be affected due to widening of the sideslopes.

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

In a letter from Steve Hamer dated December 10, 2010 the IDNR indicated that an initial report generated through their EcoCAT website indicated the presence of protected resources in the vicinity of the project location. Further review by the IDNR staff concludes that adverse impacts to the protected resources are unlikely; therefore, consultation was 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 replacing of a bridge structure resulting in a safer stream crossing. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.

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MB:djp/idotI55BLsalt creek bridge replacement

cc: **Jim Miles**
Bob Mosher
Bill Ettinger