

IEPA Log No.: **C-0243-11**
CoE appl. #: **MVS-2011-304**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 17, 2011**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 16, 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: Monroe County Highway Department – 100 South Main Street,
Room 16,, Waterloo, IL 62298

Discharge Location: Near Valmeyer in NW 1/4 Section 36 of Township 2S, Range 11W of the 3rd P.M.
in Monroe County.

Name of Receiving Water: Hawkins Creek

Project Description: Woodland Ridge ditch realignment

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 James Blessman at 217/782-3362.

JTB:C-0243-11_401 PN and FS_13May11.docx

Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
For Monroe County Highway Department
IEPA Log No. C-0243-11
COE Log No. MVS-2011-304
Contact: Mark Books; 217/785-6937
Public Notice Start Date: August 17, 2011

The Monroe County Highway Department ("Applicant") has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for impacts caused by work needed to realign approximately 328 feet of Hawkins Creek ("Creek") utilizing the existing high-flow channel. The new stream channel will be 310 feet in length. The old stream channel will be filled in except for the last 75 feet, on the downstream end, which will be allowed to remain in order to provide additional water storage and to create a small wetland area. The proposed work will specifically occur in Section 36, Township 2 South, Range 11 West, near the Village of Valmeyer. The existing channel enters the Woodland Ridge roadway channel near perpendicular, causing major erosion which is threatening the road. A stream block will be installed on the up channel end of the existing channel to redirect flow into the existing high-flow channel and the installation of two rip rap keys will be installed to prevent channel migration within the new channel on the downstream end. Rip rap will also be placed along approximately 120-lineal feet of severely eroded bank next to the roadway. A total of approximately 200 tons of riprap will be used in this project.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Hawkins Creek has a zero 7Q10 flow and is a General Use water. Hawkins Creek has not been evaluated by the Illinois EPA Surface Water Monitoring Unit. The Creek is not 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*, the Creek is not listed as a biologically significant stream nor has it received an integrity rating. The Creek has a drainage area of approximately 0.29 square miles at the project site.

The IDNR WIRT System lists Eastern Narrowmouth Toad and Illinois Cave Amphipod as state threatened or endangered species possibly residing within 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.

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. Applicant will be required to implement erosion control measures consistent with the "Illinois Urban Manual" and will need to follow Best Management Practices. The Applicant has stated the following:

"Proposed channel slopes will be at a minimum 3:1. The new slopes will be seeded and mulched immediately upon completion of the project, and continuously monitored for erosion...The stream channel bottom will be stabilized with creek rock currently on-site."

To offset the loss of four mature trees that need to be removed for this project the Applicant will plant either River Birch or Bald Cypress for each mature tree lost.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Applicant has stated the following concerning purpose for this project:

"The bank erosion along Woodland Ridge has been a continuing problem since road construction some 15 years ago, with the most extreme cases more recently. Attempts to remedy the situation have occurred several times within the past several years. These attempts included rip rap bank reinforcement only. Without a more permanent solution, as proposed stream realignment, the issue will continue to be a safety hazard, maintenance headache, and eventually roadway failure".

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. The Applicant considered two alternatives to this proposed project, the do nothing option and the option of emergency bank stabilization only.

The do nothing option is not acceptable due to the severe eroding conditions that are occurring in the existing channel and the potential for roadway collapse and closure.

The Applicant also looked at emergency bank stabilization however past attempts have shown that this type of repair is only temporary and doesn't correct the problem.

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

In a letter from Steve Hamer dated May 6, 2011 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 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 protecting a roadway. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.