

IEPA Log No.: **C-0008-11**  
CoE appl. #: **MVS-2011-33**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **May 29, 2012**  
Public Notice Ending Date: **June 19, 2012**

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 O'Fallon – 255 S. Lincoln Ave., O'Fallon, IL 62269

**Discharge Location:** Near O'Fallon in NW 1/4 Section 35 of Township 1N, Range 8W of the 3rd P.M. in St. Clair County.

**Name of Receiving Water:** Tributary of Ogles Creek

**Project Description:** Proposed reconstruction of Venita drive

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.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment  
For City of O'Fallon  
IEPA Log No. C-0008-11  
COE Log No. MVS-2011-33  
Contact: Bob Mosher; 217/558-2012  
Public Notice Start Date: May 29, 2012

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The City of O'Fallon proposes to improve Venita Drive adjacent to the new Family Sports Park. The existing road is not capable of handling the increased traffic volume brought by the Family Sports Park. The improved Venita Drive will have curbs and gutters and will include an overpass over the CSXT Railroad. This will create a new North-South emergency route in the city. Taylor Road will also be reconfigured by this project. Both roads will have new crossings over an unnamed tributary of Ogle Creek. Box culverts (8 by 4 feet) of 330 feet for Venita Drive and 162 feet for Taylor Road will replace the existing much shorter box culvert. Including the grading operations, a total of 745 feet of unnamed tributary will be disturbed. Mitigation for the project will consist of the planting of bottomland hardwood mast-producing tree species on 2.57 acres of land along the unnamed tributary within Family Sports Park

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

The unnamed tributary of Ogle Creek, a General Use water with a 7Q10 flow of zero cfs will be unavoidably impacted by this project. The unnamed tributary of Ogle Creek (no segment code) is not listed as impaired for aquatic life use in the draft 2010 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List. Illinois EPA has not assessed this water body. The unnamed tributary of Ogle Creek is not given an Integrity Rating in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*. The unnamed tributary of Ogle Creek is not designated as an enhanced water pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard. The watershed of the unnamed tributary at the point that the culverts will be installed is 147 acres, most of which is contained in the Family Sports Park. Due to the small size of this headwater stream, flow will often not be present and the aquatic life community will accordingly be restricted in scope.

#### **Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.**

The construction activities will cause a temporary increase in suspended solids. Habitat will be disturbed in the vicinity of the construction area. 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 are currently minimal due to the very small watershed size of this headwater stream in this location resulting in extended periods when the stream will be dry. Other than the segment of stream that will now be in a culvert beyond the extent that is already in a culvert, the stream should recover existing aquatic life populations after construction.

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

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. The benthic habitat disturbed by the construction activities, except for the segment in the culvert, is anticipated to recover to pre-construction conditions over time.

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

The existing Venita Drive is in poor condition and cannot meet the current needs of the area. The community will benefit from an improved roadway that will be sized to serve the new Family Sports Park. Because of the overpass over the railroad tracks, the city will have another emergency route for north-south traffic.

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

The construction of the proposed project will follow guidelines set forth by the Agency and USACE. Erosion control measures need to be implemented to prevent additional impacts. The least intrusive alternative would be to not complete the project. This is not an acceptable alternative given that this is a useful project that will serve the growing needs of the community.

A shorter box culvert would be possible if the stream were more extensively reconfigured. This option was rejected because the necessary adjustments would encroach on the walking trail and other features of the Family Sports Park.

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

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources reported no threatened or endangered species at the location of this project in a Report of Possible Resource Conflicts dated July 18, 2011.

### **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 the assessment 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 stream 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 providing a modernized roadway that better serves local needs. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.