

IEPA Log No.: **C-0103-16**  
CoE appl. #: **2016-441**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **September 1, 2016**  
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 22, 2016**

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  
Division of Water Pollution Control  
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 Dixon, 121 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Dixon, IL 61021

**Discharge Location:** Section 33, T22N, R9E of the 4<sup>th</sup> P.M. in Lee County within Dixon.

**Name of Receiving Water:** Rock River.

**Project Description:** River Road Maintenance along the Rock River.

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 Thaddeus Faught at 217/782-3362.

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Dixon is proposing to stabilize 2,540 feet of riverbank with clean quarry run rock to protect the multi-use path and parkway between River Road and the Rock River. The maintenance and installation of riprap is intended to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety and to minimize future maintenance issues associated with bank erosion.

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

The proposed action would occur in the Rock River at a point where 1218.0 cfs of flow exists upstream of the outfall during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. The Rock River is classified as a General Use Water. The Rock River 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* at this location, however, it is rated a “C” stream using IDNR’s integrity rating system at this location. The Rock River, Waterbody Segment, P-21, is listed on the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for aquatic life use with potential cause given as other flow regime alterations and fish consumption use with potential causes given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls. This segment of the Rock River is subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

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

The installation of riprap will produce stream impacts that are short-term, temporary increases in pollutant loading and will not result in long term or permanent impacts to existing uses including aquatic life habitat.

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

The increase in suspended solids, from the installation of riprap, will be local and temporary.

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

The installation of riprap will decrease erosion. A recreational river-side path will be protected for the future enjoyment of the public.

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

The applicant evaluated the potential to install vegetative bank stabilization. This option was eliminated since vegetative bank stabilization requires adequate time/conditions for root systems to grow. The risk of poor growth for successful root establishment to counter the erosive nature of the Rock River is not the preferred choice for a goal of immediate protection.

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

On February 2, 2016, the IDNR EcoCAT web-based tool was used and indicated that there were endangered/threatened species (Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*) and Gravel Chub (*Erimystax x-punctatus*)) present in the vicinity of the riprap stabilization. IDNR reviewed the project and has no objections to the issuance of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit. IDNR terminated the consultation request on March 4, 2016.

**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 draft permit 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 decreasing erosion and protecting the river-side path for the future enjoyment of the public. Comments received during the 401 water quality certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.