

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing
Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Winnebago Landfill

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Bureau of Water has received an application for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (Agency Log No.C-0211-21) for impacts associated with construction of two soil stockpiles. The proposed project is located in Winnebago County and Ogle County, Illinois. The property is bordered by Interstate 39 to the east, Edson Road to the south, Lindenwood Road to the west, and agricultural fields to the north. The proposed project establishes two stockpile areas to provide additional accommodation for the five million cubic yards of clean earthen material generated from the 222-acre landfill expansion.

Winnebago Reclamation Services, Inc., also known as Rock River Environmental Services, previously received local, state, and federal authorizations to expand its existing landfill. Stockpile 1 is a 90-acre parcel south of Edson Road immediately east of Kilbuck Road. As future cell development in the Eastern Expansion Unit (EEU) continues, Stockpile 2 is proposed for temporary clean soil stockpiling in six acres of the southwest corner of the EEU. Stockpile 2 will discharge to a small intermittent drainageway north of the proposed stockpile.

The Illinois EPA is holding a public comment period and public hearing to offer an opportunity to the public to provide both written and oral comments on this proposed action prior to making a final decision on the Section 401 Water Quality Certification. The antidegradation assessment is available online at:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/public-notice/Pages/section-401-notice.aspx>.

The Illinois EPA is accepting written public comments on the application for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification until 11:59 p.m. CT, Monday, January 10, 2022. If you would like to provide written comments, please email your comments to EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov. Written comments may also be mailed to the Illinois EPA, attention Jeff Guy, Illinois EPA Hearing Officer, P.O. Box 19276, 1021 North Grand Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62974-9276. Please reference ‘**Winnebago Landfill**’ in your email or letter. Email comments originating on third party systems or servers intended for submittal of multiple emails of the same or nearly the same content will not be accepted without prior approval from the Hearing Officer.

In addition to accepting written public comments, **the Illinois EPA Bureau of Water will hold an online (virtual) public hearing beginning at 6:30 p.m. CT on Thursday, December 9, 2021** to receive comments from the public concerning the application for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Lengthy comments should be submitted in writing. The hearing will be held pursuant to 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 164. The Illinois EPA will present opening statements concerning the draft permit and hearing procedures prior to accepting comments from the public during the hearing.

Connection instructions for the hearing are available online at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/public-notice/Pages/section-401-notice.aspx>

Registration is required if you would like to provide comments during the hearing. Please contact the Hearing Officer by email at EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov or by calling (217) 785-8724 to reserve an opportunity to provide comments during the hearing (if you are limited on time, please let the Illinois EPA Hearing Officer know so that you may be provided a more specific commenting time). **The deadline to register to comment at the hearing is 5:00 p.m. CT on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.**

Requests for interpretation (including sign language) must be made by 5:00 p.m. CT on **Thursday, November 18, 2021** by contacting the Hearing Officer by email at EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov or by calling (217) 785-8724.

Questions regarding hearing procedures or requests to address special needs should be made to the Hearing Officer by email at EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov, by calling (217) 785-8724, or by calling the TDD phone number (866) 273-5488.

The Illinois EPA issues water quality certifications pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). This certification must be granted or waived prior to issuance of any federal permit that authorizes a potential discharge of dredged or fill material to a waters of the U.S. CWA Section 401 specifies that the Illinois EPA must determine whether the proposed activities would meet the state water quality standards at 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Subtitle C: Water pollution. The Illinois EPA technical review focuses on potential impacts on water quality caused by the proposed construction and alteration of the waterbody. A 401 certification granted by the Illinois EPA may contain conditions and monitoring requirements deemed necessary to assure compliance with water quality standards or other applicable requirements. Conditions placed in the certification become conditions of the federal permit. The certification request may be denied if the Illinois EPA determines that applicable water quality standards or other requirements would not be met. For more information on the Section 401 Water Quality Certification, please contact Barb Lieberoff, Illinois EPA Office of Community Relations, at (217) 524-3038 or by email at barb.lieberoff@illinois.gov.