



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: March 21, 2002

Section 401/404

Joint Public Notice Illinois Environmental Protection Agency US Army Corps of Engineers

1. On February 22, 2002, the Illinois Pollution Control Board promulgated modified water quality standards at Part 302.105 of Subtitle C: Water Pollution. The modified water quality standards provide for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment when there is an increase in pollutant loading to a water body. The antidegradation assessment must include the following:

- Consideration of the fate and effects of parameters that are proposed to increase the pollutant loading.
- Assurance that water quality standards will not be exceeded by the proposed activity.
- Assurance that all existing water uses are protected.
- Assurance that all technically and economically reasonable measures are proposed to avoid or minimize the pollutant loading.
- Assurance that the activity that increases the pollutant loading benefits the community at large.

When an antidegradation assessment is required the following information may be required from the applicant to complete the antidegradation review:

- Identification and characterization (e.g., the current physical, biological and chemical conditions) of the water body affected by the proposed project and the water body's existing uses.
- The quantity of the pollutant load increase to the water body.
- The potential impacts of the proposed project on the water body.
- The purpose and anticipated benefits of the proposed project.
- An assessment of the alternatives to the proposed project that will result in a reduced pollutant load to the water body, no load increase or minimal environmental degradation. Alternatives that result in no discharge to the water body and changes in the location of the activity must be addressed in the submittal.
- Proof that a copy of the application was provided to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

2. The new rules affect those projects requiring individual water quality certification/waiver from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as a result of the Corps of Engineers requiring a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The new rules require the IEPA to provide a fact sheet regarding the antidegradation assessment prior to water quality certification. The IEPA will post the fact sheets on the IEPA's website at <http://epa.state.il.us/public-notices/>. The new rules are available at http://www.ipcb.state.il.us/TITLE_35/main.htm#c under Part 302: Water Quality Standards.

3. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the five Corps of Engineers Districts in Illinois have cooperated to modify existing local procedures, which will result in most projects being processed under existing joint processing procedures. These procedures have existed in Illinois since the 1980's. We will continue to utilize the existing joint application packet, titled "Protecting Illinois Waters", which is available from any of the five Corps Districts in Illinois and the IEPA upon request.

4. If you have any questions about how the new rules may affect your future projects, or what type of information may be required of you on permit applications, please contact:

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Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
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Or

Mr. Dick Baugh
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