



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Detroit District

# Joint Public Notice



Applicant: Hammond Sanitary District

In Reply Refer To: Corps File No. LRE-2007-00112-73

Date: January 6, 2009  
Expires: February 5, 2009

**Proposed discharge of fill for construction of a 144-inch sanitary sewer line, a 96-inch sewer line, and two outfalls associated with a new combined sewer overflow basin in the Grand Calumet River and adjacent wetlands in Hammond, Indiana**

**Applicant:** Hammond Sanitary District, 5143 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, Indiana 46327

**Project Location:** In the Grand Calumet River and adjacent wetlands, Section 36, Township 37 North, Range 10 West, Lake County, Indiana. The site is located along the Grand Calumet River, between Calumet Avenue and Sohl Avenue.

**Federal Authority:** The applicant has applied for a Department of the Army permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**State Authority:** A DA permit, if otherwise warranted, will not be issued on this project until a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is on file in this office or it is considered waived. This Public Notice serves as the notice for a Clean Water Act, Section 401 application for water quality certification from the IDEM. IDEM will review this proposal for compliance with the applicable provisions of Section 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the CWA, including the state water quality standards currently set forth at 327 IAC 2. They will consider comments regarding this proposal postmarked by the closing date of this notice. Comments to IDEM should be addressed to: IDEM, Office of Water Quality, 100 North Senate Avenue, MC65-42 WQC 1255, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6015. The applicant is responsible for obtaining the certification from IDEM.

**Project Description:** As shown on the attached plans, the applicant proposes to construct a 144-inch combined sewer overflow (CSO) pipeline, a 96-inch CSO pipeline crossing, and two outfalls in the Grand Calumet River and its adjacent wetlands. The total proposed length of the entire CSO line is 2,500 linear feet; approximately 1,250 linear feet of that is located within the river and wetlands. The proposed pipeline would begin with the river crossing, from the south bank to the north bank (east of the Sohl Avenue bridge) and then proceed to the southeast, following the north bank of the river for 1,250 feet before turning to the east, out of the riverbank/wetland area. The applicant contends that 1.18 acres of the project's impacts on the river and its wetlands would be temporary, while 0.09 acres would be permanent.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has stated the following regarding avoidance and minimization of these impacts: the proposed route was chosen over two other

possible routes because it is the most cost effective, associated with grant money available for removal of contaminated sediment from the Grand Calumet River and because it minimizes wetland impacts by partially locating the trench in the river channel. The proposed route also avoids some mature trees along the river bank and provides for the removal of more contaminated sediment from the river bottom. The applicant has also stated that the temporary impact areas would be restored to pre-existing contours following the pipeline installation, and the wetland areas would be replanted with native vegetation. The Corps has not verified the adequacy of the restoration plan at this time.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant is not proposing mitigation for the permanent impacts, as it is typically not required for impacts that are less than 0.10 acres in size.

The proposed construction sequence would begin with creating access to the project site and installing erosion control measures. The project site would be cleared of vegetation, creating a temporary right-of-way area an average of 40 feet wide, sometimes up to 65 feet wide. Next, steel sheet piling would be installed along both sides of the entire pipeline route (1,250 linear feet on each side, approximately 24 feet apart), extending up to 35 feet below ground. Any areas within the sheet piling that contain water would be dewatered, followed by excavation of the trench to a depth between 20 to 25 feet below ground level. A total of 31,000 cubic yards of material would be removed from the trench, 15,600 cubic yards of which is contaminated. The contaminated materials would be appropriately treated prior to disposal in a suitable landfill or other disposal area. The non-contaminated excavated materials would be disposed of at a suitable upland location.

The pipe (reinforced concrete) would be installed and the trench would be backfilled with approximately 23,500 cubic yards of clean fill material, leaving approximately 3 feet of material atop the concrete pipe. The sheet piling would be left in place permanently, in order to support the pipeline and associated fill material, but it would be cut to below ground level once construction is complete. Following the cut down, the project area would be graded to pre-construction contours and the temporary impact areas restored as discussed above.

Construction of the pipeline crossing (approximately 100 feet long) would follow a similar sequence, with the steel sheet pile serving a dual purpose as supporting walls for the trench and as a cofferdam across the river channel. The project site is located in a topographically elevated portion of the Grand Calumet River where flow direction can change, depending on environmental conditions. Therefore, project plans do not include pumping water from the river around the trenched area. When the sheet pile is installed across the river channel, water will be able to flow to the east, away from the project site until the crossing is complete, at which time the river flow will be restored to preconstruction conditions.

The proposed work is part of a larger project to construct a 25-million gallon CSO basin. The purpose of the project is to allow treatment of CSO waters before discharge into the Grand Calumet River following wet weather events.

**Other Authorizations:** The applicant has either received or requested the following governmental authorization:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management - Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Indiana Department of Natural Resources - Construction in a Floodway, IC 14-28-1

**Comments:** We are publishing this notice in compliance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 320-330 and the Indiana statutes listed above. Comments on the project should be submitted in writing and postmarked or delivered by the expiration date of this public notice. Comments of a positive or negative nature may be submitted. All responses must refer to file number LRE-2007-00112-73. We will interpret a lack of response as meaning that there is no objection to the permit application. Comments should be filed with Charles M. Simon, Chief, Permit Evaluation Branch A, Regulatory Office, Detroit District, Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1027, Detroit, Michigan 48231. Comments may be e-mailed to: kerrie.e.kuhne@usace.army.mil, but must include a name and mailing address.

**Public Hearing:** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

**Evaluation:** The decision whether to issue the Department of the Army permit will be based on evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. These decisions will reflect the national concerns for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic

properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Therefore, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

**Endangered Species:** We will review this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. We are not aware of the presence of any listed species or critical habitat at or in the vicinity of the proposed worksite. We invite information and/or comments regarding the potential presence of, or impacts to, any listed species or critical habitat.

**Cultural Resources:** The District Staff has reviewed existing information on historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, including the National Register of Historic Places. There are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The permit area has been so extensively modified by modern development that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon an undisturbed historic property. The District Engineer invites responses to this Public Notice from federal, state and local agencies, historical and archaeological societies, Indian tribes, and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

**Additional Information:** Questions concerning this application may be directed to Kerrie Kuhne at the Corps of Engineers address listed above, or telephone number 313-226-5381.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Charles M. Simon  
Chief, Permit Evaluation Branch A  
Regulatory Office

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

We request that the above notice be conspicuously and continuously posted for the time period of this notice.