



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Chicago District

Public Notice



REGION 5

Applicant:

Date: FEBRUARY 1, 1993

Expires: MARCH 2, 1993

In Reply Refer to:

Section: 404 of the Clean Water Act

FINALIZATION OF LAKE COUNTY ADVANCED IDENTIFICATION OF WETLANDS STUDY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (USEPA) Region 5, and the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in consultation with state and local regulatory and planning agencies, have completed an Advanced Identification of wetlands study (ADID) in Lake County, Illinois. This ADID was initiated as a planning effort to identify and encourage protection of ecologically significant aquatic resources within the rapidly developing area of Lake County. The purpose of this study was to identify wetlands or other aquatic sites which are generally unsuitable for the discharge of dredged or fill material. This ADID study has identified approximately 200 wetland sites in Lake County that are unsuitable for the discharge of dredged or fill material. Maps showing the locations of these wetlands are attached to this Public Notice.

The Corps of Engineers regulates discharge of dredged or fill material in to wetlands and other waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and uses the 404(b)(1) Guidelines to determine whether a permit for such activities should be issued. The determination of unsuitability was based on the likelihood that use of these sites for the discharge of dredged or fill material would not comply with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Therefore, potential applicants are being notified in advance that it will be difficult to meet the requirements of the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, which is necessary in order to receive a 404 permit to fill these sites. This ADID does not alter the existing permit application process, but rather simplifies it by giving the public an advance indication of the probability of receiving a permit.

The agencies which have participated in this ADID included the following:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service
- Illinois Department of Conservation - Natural Heritage
Division

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
Lake County Department of Planning, Zoning, and
Environmental Quality
Lake County Forest Preserve District
Lake County Department of Management Services
Lake County Health Department
Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
Lake County Storm Water Management Commission

This study identified those wetland or other aquatic sites which, because of high functional value, were determined to be unsuitable for filling activities. This determination was made by evaluating Lake County wetland with respect to two basic functional areas: 1) ecological value based on wildlife habitat quality and plant species diversity, and 2) by hydrologic functions consisting of stormwater storage value, shoreline/bank stabilization value, sediment/toxicant retention value, and nutrient removal/transformation value. Sites which had high ecological value or performed three of the four water quality functions were determined to be of high functional value. It is important to note that this ADID study has not made any determinations regarding suitability or unsuitability for filling activities for any wetlands not identified as ADID Sites in this study. In addition, it should not be presumed that this study has identified every high quality wetland site in Lake County.

On April 20, 1992, a joint Public Notice was issued by the USEPA and the Corps. This Public Notice described the Lake County ADID process, provided maps of the proposed ADID Sites, invited public comment on the Lake County ADID, and announced that the USEPA and the Corps would hold a public meeting to receive the public's input on the ADID. The public meeting was held on May 19, 1992, and at this meeting the comment period was extended an additional 30 days until June 1, 1992. A number of comments were received on the Lake County ADID proposal. A summary of these comments and the responses to these comments are provided in Attachment 1. After carefully reviewing all the comments submitted on the proposed Lake County ADID, the Lake County ADID map has been finalized. Based on information received during the comment period, 5 additional wetland sites (199-203) were added to the ADID list and one site # 180 was expanded. No other significant changes have been made in the ADID map.

The Lake County ADID has identified 203 sites as having high functional value. The Lake County Wetland Inventory (LCWI) was used as the base map for this study. **The wetland boundaries shown on these maps are approximate and do not constitute a formal wetland delineation.** The "ADID Sites" are shown on attachments labeled Sheets 1 - 17. Larger scale maps of the ADID wetland sites as well as the evaluation methodology report are available for review at the following locations:

County of Lake
Dept of Management Services
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, Illinois

Lake County Stormwater
Management Commission
333-B Peterson Road
Libertyville, Illinois

U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois

U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Chicago District
111 N. Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office
1000 Hart Road
Suite 180
Barrington, Illinois

Individual 1"=1000' scale copies of these maps can be ordered from:

County of Lake
Department of Map Services
18 N County Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
708/360-6373

Concurrent with this notice is a notice from the Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, announcing the exertion of discretionary authority to override nationwide permits in all areas identified as being of high functional value in the Lake County ADID. This means that individual permits will be required for any discharge activities proposed for sites which have been identified as having high functional value in the Lake County ADID.

A copy of the record of decision can be reviewed at either the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's office or at the Corps of Engineers' office. The location of these offices are given below.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Wetlands and Watersheds Section
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Regulatory Branch
111 N. Canal Street
Chicago, IL 60606

1/11/93

DATE

Barry C. DoBry

DALE S. BRYSON
Director, Water Division
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency,
Region V

20 Jan 93

DATE

David M. Reed

DAVID M. REED
Lieutenant Colonel,
U.S. Army
District Engineer

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continuously posted for 30 days from the date of issuance.