

Project Factsheet for: Springfield, Illinois (City Water, Light & Power) / Hunter Lake EIS - PERMITS

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Project Location Information

Location: Springfield, Illinois
River Basin(s): Illinois
State(s): IL
Congressional District(s): IL-18

Status

There has been a lack of activity over the past year(s). Efforts have been underway for some time to complete the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). This has been held up as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has raised significant issues which need to be resolved prior their issuance of Section 401 water quality certification. We will concurrently finalize the 404 permit action once the IEPA water quality certification is issued and the record of decision is finalized.

On August 3, 2006, COE regulatory and planning staff met with City officials and the IEPA to discuss the project. There have been some project changes since the original Public Notice was distributed. Some additional technical information is needed. Once the information has been provided, the revised plans will be described in a new Public Notice this year (late summer / fall 2007).

Revised project plans were submitted. A revised Public Notice was distributed on May 31, 2007. A number of comments were received and provided to CWLP for a response. On September 4, 2007, CWLP provided a response to the comments sent out to them for a response. Copies of the response were forwarded to those making comments.

Section 401 water quality certification from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is needed.

A decision is needed if another Corps public hearing will be held.

Description

Preliminary discussions began in August 1988 with City Water Light & Power (CWLP) about an additional water supply reservoir for the City of Springfield. A Section 404 permit application was received on August 1, 1989. On August 22, 1989, we notified state and federal agencies that an EIS would be prepared for this project. On October 21, 1989, the Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register, and on November 8, 1989, the public notice was issued, also noting that an EIS would be prepared. Slow progress by the applicant occurred in compiling information necessary for the EIS.

Briefings were given to CWLP and congressional interests on July 6, 1995. Congressional interests at that time included Congressman LaHood and Senator Durbin and then Senator Mosely-Braun. Contact with congressional interests has been ongoing throughout the process.

Funding of the EIS has been an issue. In the early 1990s (FY 90-92) the Corps funded \$106.7K. Subsequent regulatory guidance ceased Corps direct funding. The City has provided \$94,000 under Support For Others for the EIS preparation and review process. We do not anticipate requesting additional City funds unless some unforeseen costs are incurred.

In February 1998, we received the consultant's wetland delineation report stating that 42.8 acres of wetland were to be impacted. On April 9, 1998, we expressed our concerns to the City about the inadequacy of this report. As followup in June and July 1998, the Corps with cooperation from the Natural Resources Conservation Service performed onsite verification of the delineation according to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual at several locations within the project area. The City's representatives were in attendance. By letter dated October 14, 1998, we informed the City that our verification estimated that 102 acres of wetlands were to be impacted.

The FEIS was published in the Federal Register on November 24, 2001. A regulatory public hearing was held on February 26, 2001, in Springfield, Illinois. The Record of Decision for the FEIS will be finalized once the IEPA issues their Section 401 water quality certification. The issues are complex, involving NPDES and other watershed issues, and need inclusion into the EIS. The DA permit decision will follow the Record of Decision.

Authority

SI - Special Interest -- Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act

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