

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Applicant: City of Altoona, Iowa

CEMVR-RD-2023-0060

Date: February 7, 2023

Expires: March 8, 2023

Section 404

## Joint Public Notice US Army Corps of Engineers Iowa Department of Natural Resources

1. **Applicant**: City of Altoona, POC Adam Bullerman (Agent), 900 Venbury Drive, Suite A, Altoona, Iowa 50009.

### 2. Project Location.

- East of the City of Altoona in Polk County, Iowa
- Section 18, Township 79 North, Range 22 West
- Tributary of Mud Creek
- UTM NAD-83, Zone 15
- Latitude 41.655329, Longitude -93.454519
- 3. **Project Description**. The applicant proposes to construct two regional stormwater detention basins (NE Industrial Regional Detention Basin) on an unnamed tributary of Mud Creek, to include excavation for two wet pond detention basins; earth fill for two dams; concrete principal spillway weir (north pond); concrete principal spillway riser and circular outlet pipe (south pond); earthen auxiliary spillway; barrier dam fill (south pond); recreational trail relocation (south pond); channel relocation (north pond), barrier dam fill (south pond), flood plain fill (north pond).
  - <u>Stream Impacts and Mitigation</u>. Mitigation Bank credits will be purchased to offset the impacts to 0.06 acres of emergent wetlands and 1,544 linear feet of stream impact.

### 4. Agency Review and Where to Reply.

- a. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
- b. State of Iowa. The project plans have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Department's opinion that the

proposed activity will comply with Iowa's water quality standards (Chapter 61 IAC). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Iowa should be addressed to: <u>Iowa Department of Natural Resources</u>, 502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034. A copy of the comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers office (see paragraph 11. of this public notice for address).

5. **Historical/Archaeological**. The District Archaeologist consulted with the Iowa geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online. Including the HILD and Notable Locations layers. A Phase I survey was performed for the entire 45.2-acre tract for this project. No previously identified archeological sites or inventoried properties are within the project area. Two previous cultural resource surveys intersected the project area and both resulted in negative findings. The report will be coordinated with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office and any Tribes that express an interest in reviewing the reports. Based on the results of the surveys it is the recommendation of the District Archaeologist that there will be **no historic properties affected** by the issuance of the permit because "the nature, scope, and magnitude of the work, and/or structures to be permitted are such that there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected" (33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.3.b).

#### 6. Endangered Species:

- a. District staff has performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as occurring in Polk County, Iowa: Indiana Bat, Northern Longeared Bat, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid and Monarch Butterfly.
- b. The proposed project is being coordinated with the FWS through this public notice. According to plans, designs and information provided by the applicant, there will be tree removal as part of this project, but applicant proposes to remove the trees only between October 1 and March 31<sup>st</sup>; therefore, there will be "*may effect but not likely adversely effect*" determination for the bat species. Lastly, there is no habitat in the project area that would support the other species listed, therefore the proposed project will have *no effect* on these two listed species.
- 7. **Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines**. The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).
- 8. **Public Interest Review**. The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern 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: economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

- 9. Who Should Reply. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the: public, Federal, state, 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 or 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. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.
- 10. **Public Hearing Requests**. 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. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.
- 11. **Reply to the Corps**. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: RD (Hardy), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact Donna Hardy at (309) 794-5378 or email at <a href="mailto:donna.r.hardy@usace.army.mil">donna.r.hardy@usace.army.mil</a>.

Attach
Plans
Drawing 1 of 3 – Vicinity Map
Drawing 2 of 3 – Topographic Map
Drawing 3 of 3 – Plan Details

Donna Hardy Mrs. Donna R. Hardy Project Manager, Western Branch Regulatory Division

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