



US Army
Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Springfield Airport Authority

CEMVR-OD-P-2020-0841

Date: July 16, 2020

Expires: August 14, 2020
Section 404

Joint Public Notice US Army Corps of Engineers Illinois Department of Natural Resources

1. **Applicant:** Springfield Airport Authority, c/o Mr. Mark Hanna, 1200 Capital Airport Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62707.

Agent: Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc., c/o Marion Wells, 2750 W Washington Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704.

2. **Project Location:** The wetland is located at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport on the south side in Springfield, Illinois. Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 5 West. Sangamon County, Illinois. Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 16. Latitude: 39.83650, Longitude: -89.67694.

3. **Project Description and Purpose.** The applicant is proposing to fill and drain an existing 0.89-acre wetland and clear associated vegetation located at the Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport near the Charlie Ramp in order to minimize wildlife attractants and improve drainage. The wetland area has been used by various species of ducks, Canadian geese, and other wildlife such as deer, coyote, and fox. Wildlife Hazard Management Reports were completed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services for the Airport. The Reports designated this area as a high hazard and recommended the area be cut and graded to eliminate the standing water and allow vegetation to be mowed to a consistent height. The purpose of the project is to meet Federal Aviation Administration safety standards by minimizing wildlife hazard attractants, especially near the runway approaches which will reduce risks to aviation safety.

4. **Avoidance and Minimization Statement.** The applicant has provided an alternative analysis for this project. Multiple alternatives were considered including a no action alternative. Detailed evaluations were limited to a range of reasonable alternatives that met the purpose and need for the proposed project. The alternatives considered with fewer impacts to Waters of the U.S. were eliminated from further consideration because they did not meet the purpose and need of minimizing wildlife hazard attractants to the airport.

5. Agency Review.

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 Illinois.

(1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review.

(2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5).

(3) Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the Office of Water Resources at dnr.dwrn@illinois.gov or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at <http://dnr.state.il.us/owr>.

6. **Historical/Archaeological.** The proposed permit area falls within the Area of Potential Effect covered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project. The Section 106 process for this project has been completed in accordance with the stipulations of the Programmatic Agreement Regarding Section 106 Implementation for Federal-Aid Transportation Projects in the State of Illinois by Federal Highways Administration, Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, IDOT and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. IDOT provided the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a statement of “**No historic properties affected**” by memo dated 24 May 2018.

7. **Endangered Species.** The IL DOT have performed a review of this project 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) on the IPaC website as occurring in Sangamon County, Illinois: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*); Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*). No proposed or designated critical habitat is listed. Within IPaC there is a determination key for the bat species, it was used to determine applicability of the project with the FWS revised programmatic biological opinion for transportation projects dated 12/15/2016 and to assess what effect the project would have on the bat species. The IL DOT completed an IPaC qualification interview and determined that the project is within the scope of the programmatic biological opinion and is **not likely to adversely affect** the Northern long-eared bat or Indiana bat provided the following conservation measure is implemented by the project sponsor: trees three inches or greater in diameter at breast height will not be cleared April 1 through September 30. It was determined that the project will have **no effect** on the Eastern prairie fringed orchid.

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 conservation, 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, 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. 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 of Engineers.** Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-PE (Wendy Frohlich), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact **Mrs. Wendy Frohlich at 309-794-5674** or email: wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil.

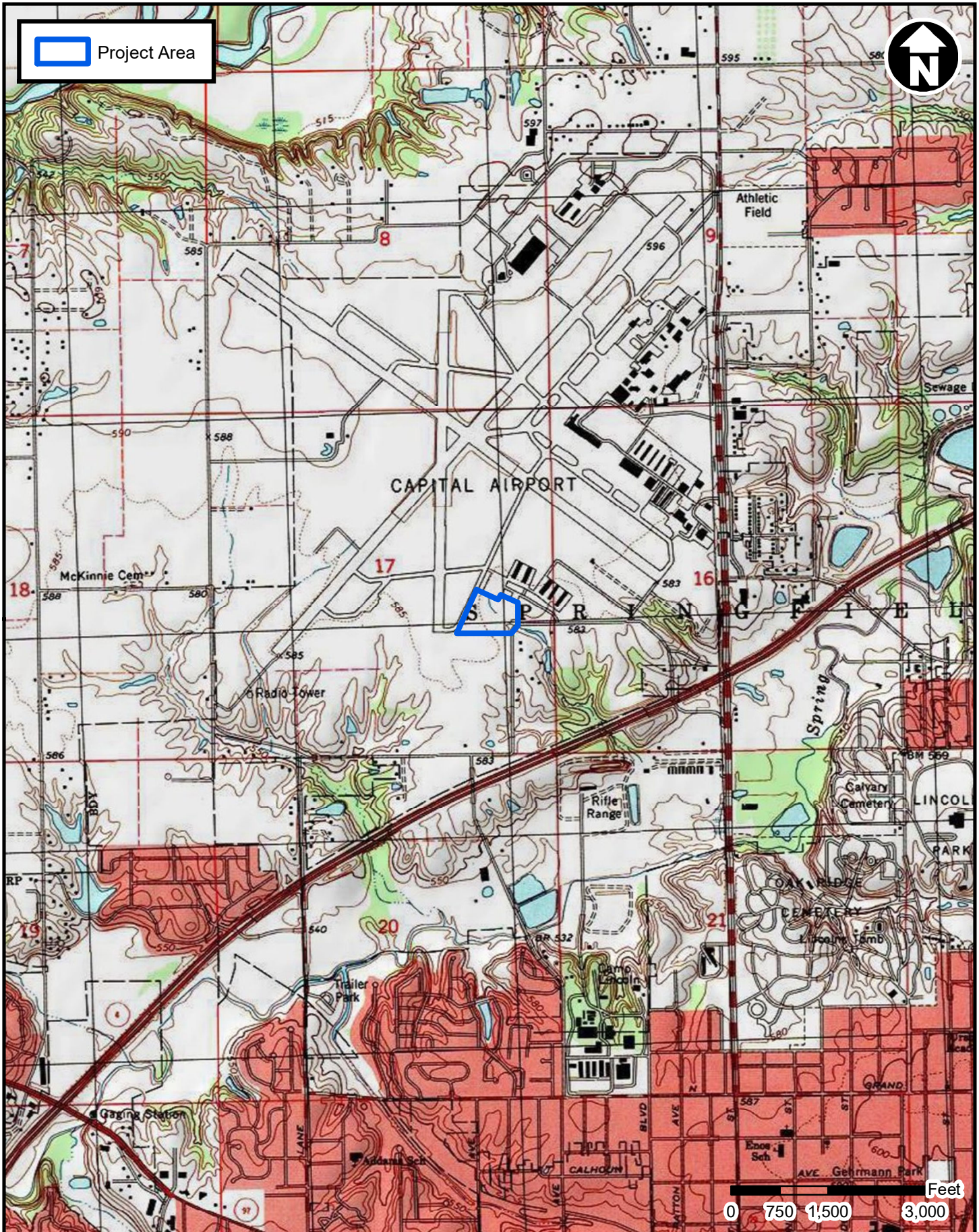
Attach
Plan

Mr. Trevor E. Popkin,
Chief, Illinois/Missouri Section
Regulatory Branch

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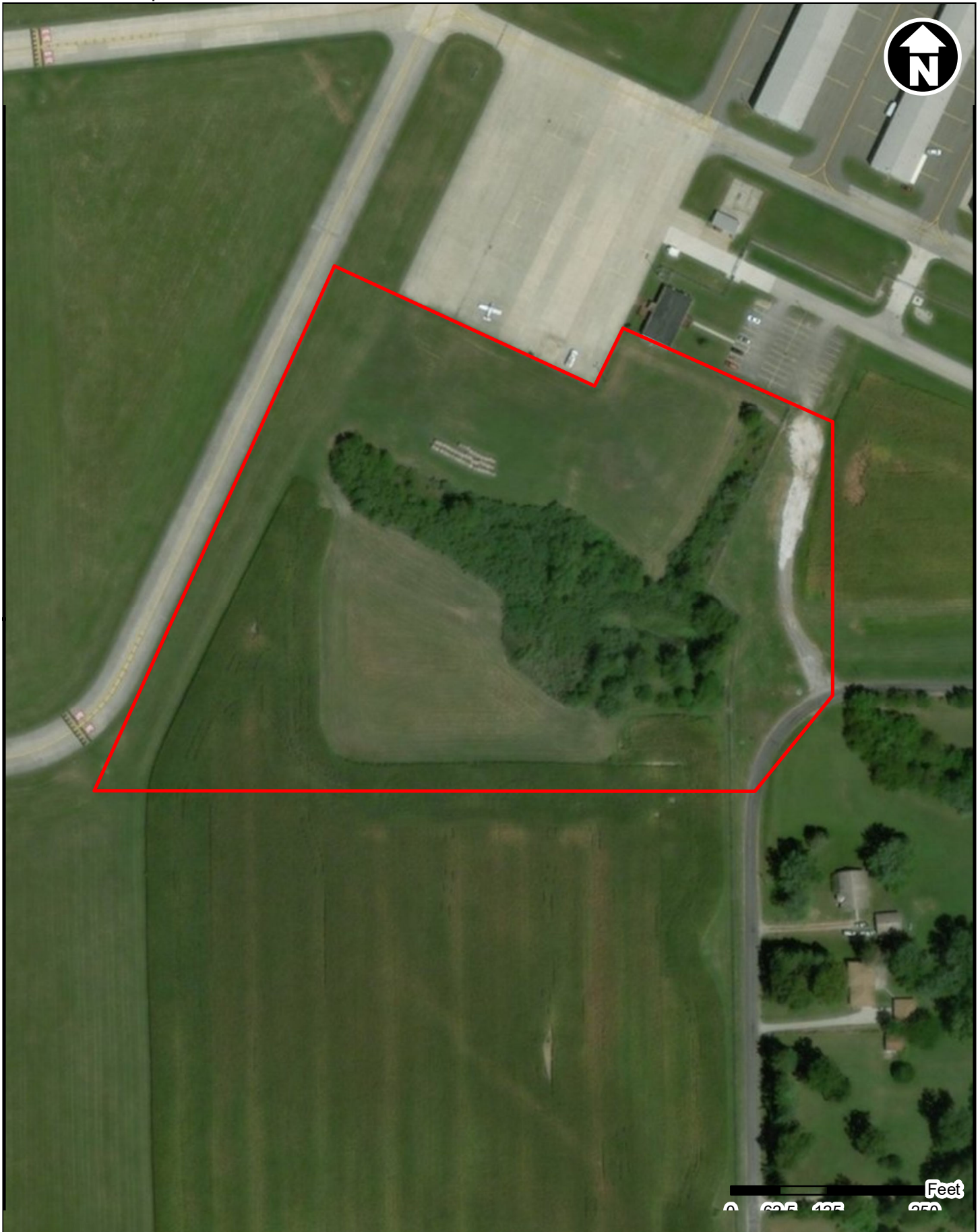




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Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Charlie Ramp - Springfield, Sangamon Co., IL
USGS Topographic Map - Springfield West, IL Quadrangle





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Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport Charlie Ramp - Springfield, Sangamon Co., IL

Aerial Map