

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers ® Rock Island District

Applicant: Ecological Solutions LLC

CEMVR-OD-P-2019-0394

Date: September 02, 2021 Expires: October 01, 2021 Section 404

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

1. Applicant: Ecology Solutions LLC, 6132 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053.

2. **Project Location**: Section 2, Township 16 North, Range 4 East. Atkinson, Henry County, Illinois. Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 16. Latitude: 41.408067, Longitude: -89.996836.

### 3. Project Description and Purpose.

a. The applicant is proposing to expand the existing Eco Hill Landfill. The expansion area contains 3,103 linear feet of jurisdictional perennial tributary and 1.14 acres of jurisdictional emergent wetlands. The existing previously impounded 3,103 linear of the perennial tributaries and the adjacent 1.14 acres of jurisdictional wetland will be impacted through a combination of dredge and fill activities. The required over-excavation will occur during cell development activities and will terminate at designated subgrade elevations or at a greater depth if soil conditions require further subgrade enhancement. A 4-foot thick, or greater if required by soil conditions, composite liner will be constructed for landfill cells. This liner will consist of a 3-foot compacted clay liner, a 60-mil high-density polyethylene geomembrane liner, a leachate drainage layer, and a geotextile filter liner. The existing perennial surface water inflow into the impounded tributary (coming from under I80) will be rerouted through a new channel along the north side of I80 (south side of the proposed expansion), and into an approximate 12.3-acre stormwater basin located along the eastern boundary of the expansion. Flow out of the basin would discharge into the existing stream channel that currently outflows from the impounded stream.

b. The purpose of the proposed expansion is to improve the landfill's current disposal capacity by increasing the landfill's airspace. Given the current waste acceptance ration, Eco Hill's current disposal capacity is projected to expire within 10 years. The expansion would allow for an additional 12 years of disposal capacity, doubling the current projected airspace utilization allowance at the current density and waste acceptance rate. The lateral landfill expansion would provide needed landfill disposal space to the village of Atkinson, Henry County and surrounding areas. The increase in capacity of the facility is necessary to dispose of waste from its intended service area in the next twenty years.

### 4. Avoidance and Minimization Statement.

a. The applicant has provided an alternative analysis for this project. Multiple alternatives were considered to reduce and avoid impacts to aquatic resources while maintaining project purpose. The applicants preferred alternative is to utilize approximately 85 acres of land located in the southeast portion of property owned by Ecology Solutions that is contiguous with Eco Hill and located within the current landfill property boundary. The western perimeter of the Alternative 2 Southeast Expansion borders that currently developed landfill disposal area and therefore would be able to utilize existing landfill property, making integration into existing Eco Hill Operation possible with minimal changes to infrastructure and logistics.

b. The applicant has proposed to mitigate for wetland impacts of 1.14 acres by purchasing wetland bank credits at a ratio of 1:1.5 for a total of 1.71 wetland credits to be purchased from an approved mitigation bank. The applicant has proposed to mitigate for the total of 3,103 linear feet of stream impacts by purchasing 14,990 stream credits from an approved mitigation bank.

### 5. Agency Review.

a. <u>Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers</u>. 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 <u>dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov</u> or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at <u>http://dnr.state.il.us/owr</u>.

6. **Historical/Archaeological**. The District consulted with the Illinois online geographic information systems archaeological site and survey databases and determined that the entire permit area has been previously surveyed (Survey #14653). No historic properties were identified in the survey. Therefore, it is the opinion of the District there will be **no historic properties affected** 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).

# 7. Endangered Species.

a. District staff have 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 as occurring in Henry County, Illinois: (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/illinois-cty.html)

- Indiana bat. The endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. Indiana bats migrate seasonally between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitats. Winter hibernacula include caves and abandoned mines. Females form nursery colonies under the loose bark of trees (dead or alive) and/or cavities, where each female gives birth to a single young in June or early July. A single maternity colony may utilize a number of trees during the summer, typically a primary roost tree and several alternates. The species or size of tree does not appear to influence whether Indiana bats use a tree for roosting provided the appropriate bark structure is present.
  - Species and critical habitat may be present; however, the project location is outside of the habitat area, therefore a **No Effect** determination has been made.
- <u>Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid</u>. The threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) may potentially be found in any Illinois county. It occupies wet prairie remnant habitat. There is no critical habitat designated for this species.
  - Since there is no wet prairie remnant habitat to be affected by the project, there should be **No Effect** on the eastern prairie fringed orchid.
- <u>Northern long-eared bat</u>. The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is listed as threatened. It hibernates in caves and mines and swarms in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. It roosts and forages in upland forests and woods.
  - Species and critical habitat may be present; however, the project location is outside of the habitat area, therefor a **No Effect** determination has been made.
- <u>Decurrent False Aster.</u> The threatened Decurrent False Aster may potentially be found in any Illinois county.
  - Species and critical habitat are not present therefor a **No Effect** determination has been made.

b. The proposed project is being coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be considered in the final assessment of the proposed project. Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.

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.

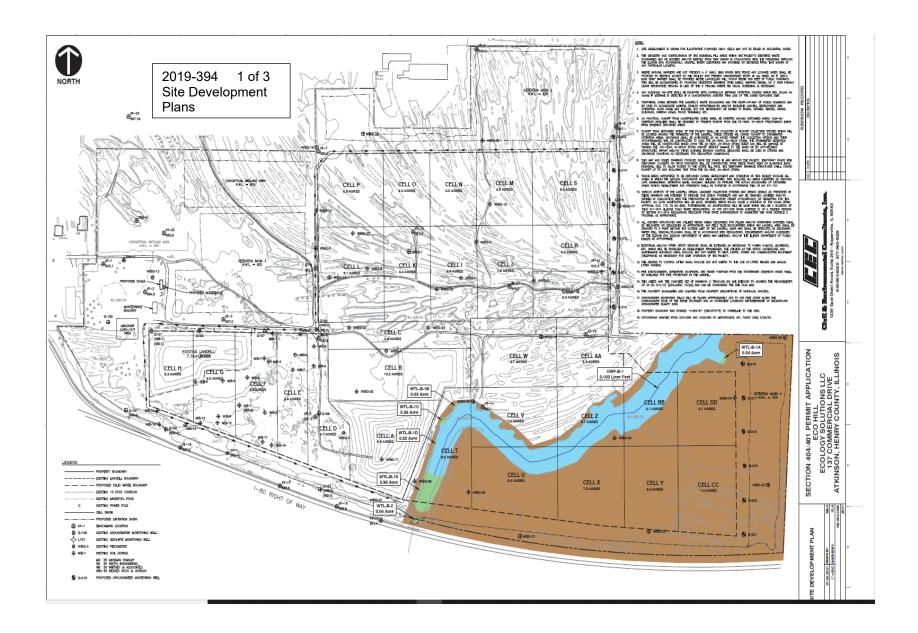
10. **Public Hearing Requests.** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

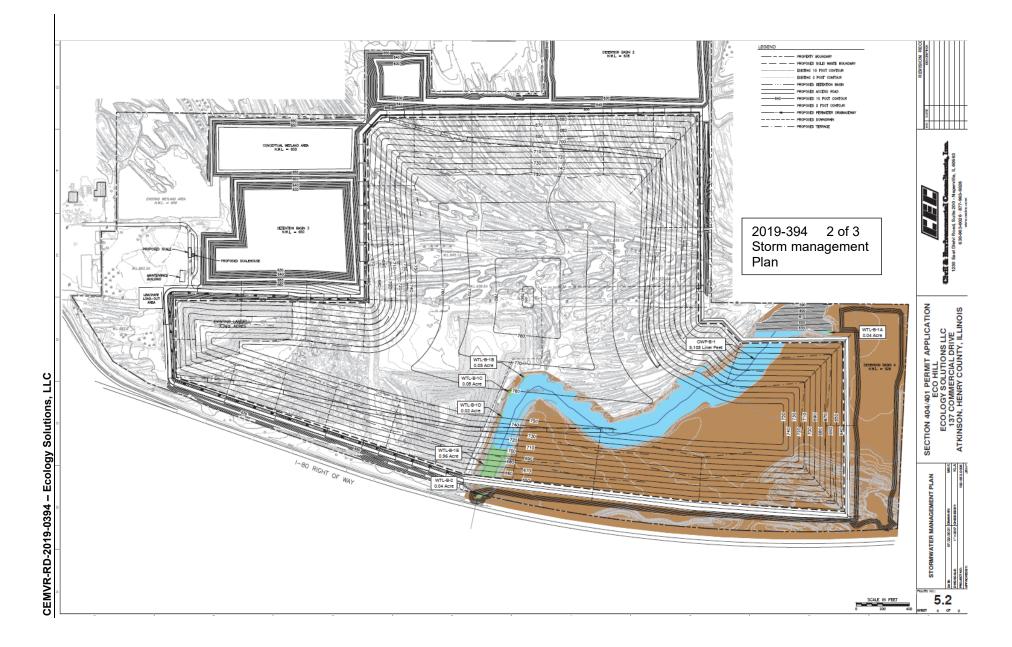
11. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers**. Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-PE (Jackie Groves), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact Mrs. Jackie Groves at 309-794-5351 or email: jackie.m.groves@usace.army.mil.

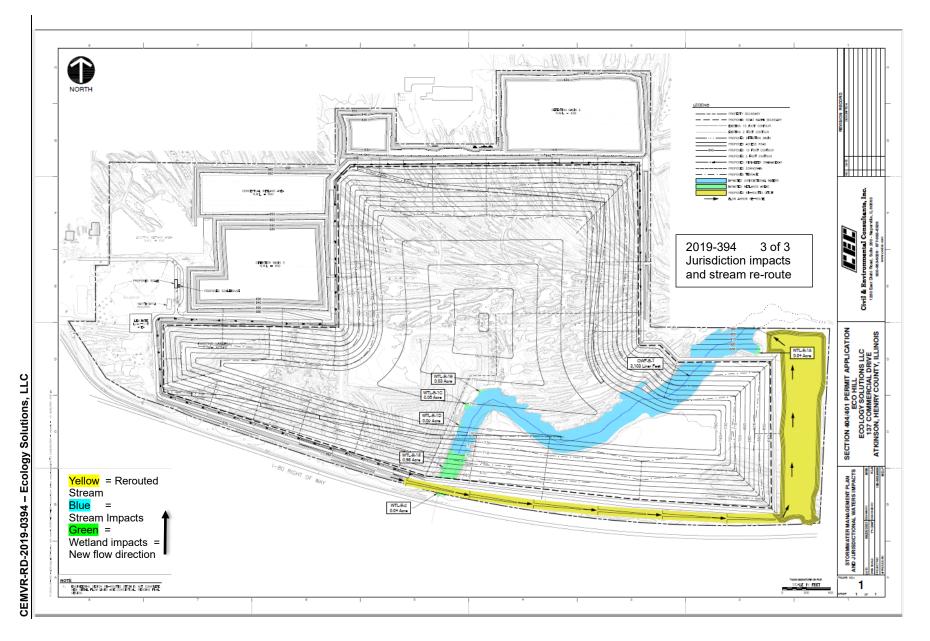
Attach Plan Mr. Trevor E. Popkin Chief, Eastern Branch Regulatory Division

- 1 of 3 Site Development Plan 2 of 3 Stormwater Management Plan
- 3 of 3 Jurisdictional Impacts

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