

VILLAGE OF ELKHART, ILLINOIS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Village of Elkhart, Illinois intends to construct a New Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System (the "Project"). The Village has prepared a Facility Plan regarding the Project. The proposed financing of the Project is through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Water Pollution Control Loan Program. As a condition of the proposed funding, a Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impact Determination (PEID) has been prepared by the IEPA and is available for viewing and comment. The PEID report, along with the Facility Plan, can be viewed at Elkhart Village Hall, 209 Governor Oglesby Street, Elkhart, IL 62634 during normal business hours, as well as at the offices of Fehr Graham Engineering and Environmental, 1610 Broadmoor Drive, Champaign, IL 61821. A Public Hearing to answer questions or receive comments regarding the PEID report and the Facility Plan will be held on Monday, October 16th, 2023, at 6:00 PM at Elkhart Village Hall, 209 Governor Oglesby Street, Elkhart, IL 62634. Written public comments regarding the PEID report and Facility Plan can be directed to the Village of Elkhart President or directly to Jillian Fowler of the Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section, Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, PO Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, for a period of 10 days following the hearing.

Lyle Fout, Village President



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

Corrected Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination

Date: **SEP 19 2023**

Loan Applicant: Village of Elkhart

IEPA Loan Project Number: L170472

To all interested persons:

Section 365.330 of the Illinois Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) conduct an assessment of the environmental impacts of proposed wastewater projects to be funded with loans. This review is carried out in conjunction with the Agency's review of the applicant's project plan.

Prior to final approval of the project plan, the public's comments are sought regarding environmental impacts of the proposed project. Unless new information obtained through the public comment process causes reconsideration, the Agency will approve the project plan at the close of the public comment period.

The applicant will make the attached Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID) available for public inspection. Within 60 days of receiving this letter, the applicant must conduct a public hearing regarding both the PEID and project planning. Advertisement of the hearing must be made at least 10 days in advance. The advertisement must include the purpose of the project along with the date, time, and location of the hearing. A comment period of at least 10 days shall be provided after the hearing in which written comments may be submitted to the loan applicant or to the IEPA contact person identified in the attached document.

For information purposes only, a copy of this document is being provided to your local newspaper of record.

Your participation in this process is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gary Bingenheimer, P.E.
Manager
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
Bureau of Water

GB:JFPEID - ELKHART - L170472.DOCX

Attachment

Project Summary and Environmental Assessment

The Village of Elkhart has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) Water Pollution Control loan program to request funding to help finance a wastewater collection and treatment system improvements project. The following project summary and environmental assessment has been prepared by the IEPA to assist the loan applicant comply with the public notice requirements.

This report is based on information submitted to the IEPA by the Village of Elkhart. Sources of information include the following documents: New Sanitary Sewer System Facility Plan dated May 15, 2023. This information was submitted by the Village of Elkhart and was prepared by Fehr Graham.

Part I – Project Information

Loan Applicant: Village of Elkhart

County: Logan

Project Name: New Sanitary Sewer System Facility Plan

Project Numbers: L170472

Current Population Served: 450

Future Population (20 year): 700

Project Description: The proposed project consists of the construction of a new sanitary sewer collection system consisting of the following: approximately 1,000 feet of 12 inch diameter sanitary sewers; 2,500 feet of 10 inch diameter sanitary sewers; 20,000 feet of 8 inch diameter sanitary sewers; 350 feet of bored and jacked 20 inch steel casting pipe with 12 inch sanitary carrier pipe under Route 66 and the Union Pacific (UP) railroad crossing; 150 feet of bored and jacked 20 inch steel casing pipe with 12 inch sanitary carrier pipe under Elkhart Slough, one (1) duplex submersible sanitary pump station with 1,000 feet of 6 inch forcemain; about eighty (80) 4 foot diameter sanitary manholes; approximately 223 connections (totaling about 12,000 feet) of 6 inch sanitary sewer service connections including sewer services and fittings; and other incidental site improvements items. The project also consists of construction of a new waste water treatment plant (WWTP) consisting of a new headworks building with one (1) fine screen, one (1) bypass manual bar screen, in channel Parshall Flume Flow Measurement, one (1) covered and aerated two-cell lagoon with baffles, covers, aeration diffusion systems, one polishing reactor, two (2) 15 horsepower (each) blowers, chlorine contact tank, chlorine feed system, sodium bisulfite de-chlorination feed system, effluent flow measurement system, process building and an outfall structure near Elkhart Slough. The proposed WWTP will have a Design Average Flow (DAF) of 0.07 million gallons per day (MGD) and a Design Maximum Flow (DMF) of 0.18 MGD.

Project Location: The proposed location of the new WWTP is in the northwestern part of the Village, south of interstate 55 and west of the Elkhart Slough. Maps showing the proposed location of the new WWTP, and the proposed collection system can be seen in the attached project map.

Project Justification: The Village currently relies solely on the individual septic tank treatment and discharge systems rather than a centralized wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Many of these existing septic tanks have likely failed, and the others are expected to fail as they continue to age, leaving homes uninhabitable. This method has many negative impacts that affect almost all facets of a municipality, including pollution of natural resources, discouragement of future economic and cultural development, and a significant decrease in financial security for both the Village and its residents. To mitigate these negative socio-economic and environmental impacts, the Village has decided to consider constructing a new sanitary sewer system and wastewater treatment plant to provide reliable wastewater treatment capabilities to the residents and businesses.

Estimated Construction Start Date: July 2025

Estimated Construction Competition Date: December 2027

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$13,000,400.00 (with contingency)

Part II – Environmental Issues Associated with the Project

Project construction impacts: Temporary adverse environmental impacts such as construction-associated noise, blowing dust, air emissions, traffic disruption, and soil erosion will likely occur during construction.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources: The loan applicant submitted project information to the IDNR EcoCAT website to determine compliance with the Illinois Endangered Species Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, the Illinois Wetlands Act, and Title 17 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 1075 and 1090. The Department has concluded that adverse effects are unlikely. However, impacts to North Elkhart Hill Grove and Water Reserve, Elkhart Hill Grove Nature Preserve, and Elkhart Hill Grove Land and Water Reserve are prohibited by state regulation. All necessary precautions to avoid impacts to Dedicated Nature Preserves shall be implemented. This information will be included in the plans and specifications of the project.

Illinois Historic Preservation Division of IDNR: An IDNR letter dated April 5, 2023 indicates that there are no anticipated impacts to historic, architectural, and archaeological resources from the proposed project and that it complies with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): The loan applicant submitted their project information to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for their review and determination of requirements related to placement, or excavation, of any dredged or fill materials into rivers, lakes, ponds, large and small streams with perennial, intermittent or ephemeral flow, artificial water bodies and wetlands adjacent to these waters and associated permitting. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District letter dated June 2, 2023, indicates that the proposed project appears to fit the category of activities described in Nationwide Permit 58 for Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances. The applicant will be required to complete and return the “Completed Work Certification” form upon project completion. This permit will also be included in the plans and specifications of the project.

Part III – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

Construction:	\$9,964,000
Contingency (10%):	\$996,400
Construction Engineering:	\$878,000
Design Engineering:	\$1,097,000
Professional Services:	\$65,000
<hr/>	
Project Total:	\$13,000,400
UCCGP Grant:	(\$5,000,000)
<hr/>	
Anticipated Loan Amount:	\$8,000,400

The applicant is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the IEPA WPCLP and a grant from the IEPA Unsewered Communities Construction Grant Program (UCCGP). A \$8,000,400 loan with an estimated interest rate of 1.81% for a twenty (20) year period, would have an annual repayment of approximately \$477,081.

The loan program rules include provisions for incentives such as reduced interest rates, partial principal forgiveness (a reduction in the amount of principal borrowed that would otherwise have to be repaid), and

extended repayment periods for qualifying applicants. The criteria used to determine incentive qualification are found in Section 365.210 and 365.250 of the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the WPCLP which is available on the Agency's website. The final decision for incentive qualification will be determined at the time a loan agreement is issued using updated Census Bureau and Department of Labor data. The Agency adjusts qualifying criteria annually on July 1st.

Using current data, Applicant is eligible to receive a thirty (30) year loan term, 1.36% small community interest rate, environmental discount rate reduction, and partial loan principal forgiveness. Principal forgiveness is not guaranteed until a loan agreement is issued.

The final loan and annual repayment amounts will be based on the as-bid project costs, and the loan terms in effect on the date the loan agreement is issued.

Source of Loan Repayment: The revenue generated from the user charges is what the Village anticipates to use to repay the loan.

Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: The proposed sewer flat fee amount is dependent upon the IEPA loan incentives available to the Village. If the Village does not receive any loan principal forgiveness, the new sewer flat fee is anticipated to be \$220.00 per month. If the Village receives the qualifying 15% principal forgiveness loan incentive as well as the IEPA Unsewered Communities Construction Grant, the new sewer flat fee is anticipated to be \$97.00 per month.

Number of Customers or Service Connections: The Village anticipates approximately 223 service connections consisting of 216 residential connections and 7 commercial connections.

Median Household Income (MHI): \$77,500

Financial Impact of the proposed project: In order to determine the financial impact of the proposed project on the community, a percentage comparison of the MHI to the annual cost for water service is utilized. According to the most recent census information, the average MHI of the loan applicant is \$77,500. The projected total annual sewer service cost of \$1,164.00 is 1.50 percent of the MHI for the applicant's sewer users. Any amount less than 2.0 percent is considered to be affordable under State and Federal loan program criteria.

Public comments are invited on the proposed project. For further information contact:

Jillian Fowler, Project Manager
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
(217)782-2027

Village of Elkhart, IL

Municipal Boundaries

Proposed
WWTP Site

Proposed Sanitary
Sewer System
(Throughout)

700th St
Kennedy St
Kennedy St

Elkhart

S Gille St

County Rd 600 E

Kennedy Rd

Older Rd



4000 ft

Mailing List – Environmental Review

Project: Village of Elkhart - New WWTP & Collection System

L17: 0472

Check entities to receive Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination/Notice of Categorical Exclusion. Agencies may be omitted if they have already provided an unconditional written sign-off on the planning.

_____ Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (SHPO)

_____ Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Realty & Environmental Planning (for rare/endangered species, natural areas, and Interagency Wetlands Policy Act)

_____ Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Water Resources (for lakes, rivers and stream crossings, floodway/floodplain construction)

_____ Illinois Department of Agriculture

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Check Appropriate Regional Office

_____ Rock Island District

_____ St. Louis District

_____ Chicago District

Designated 208 Areawide Planning Agency – Check Appropriate Agency

_____ CMAP

_____ GERPDC

_____ SWIPC

Green Infrastructure Coordinator: Chris Covert

IEPA Field Office (Springfield-Region 5)

Loan Applicant

Mr. Lyle Font, Village President

Village of Elkhart

209 Governor Oglesby Street

Elkhart, IL 62634

(Continued on Back)

Local Newspaper of Record

State Journal-Register

Quantum Centre

421 South Grand Ave. W

Springfield, IL 62704

Consulting Engineer

Fehr Graham

Attn: Michelle Brown & Narendra Patel, PE

1610 Broadmoor Drive

Champaign, IL 61821

Other Interested Parties

Clerk, Village of Elkhart

Scan to: Jillian Fowler

BCC: Chron File

Planning File

Jillian Fowler

Project Manager: Jillian Fowler

Date: 8-31-2023

Copies of the Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination/Notice of Categorical Exclusion have been mailed to the above entities.

Signed: Manga Bell

Date: 9-19-2023