

Illinois Coastal Management Program Status Report

(June 1, 2009 update)

The IDNR Office of Water Resources (OWR) completed a draft ICMP document in September 2008. An internal review by the IDNR and the IEPA followed. In November 2008, the ICMP draft was revised to incorporate the comments received.

In December 2008, the OWR submitted the draft ICMP to the Coastal Programs Division in NOAA. NOAA is presently reviewing this draft Program Document to see if existing State of Illinois regulations, laws, and authorities, which address management or permit requirements of particular issues or areas, are adequate to meet the requirements for program approval. NOAA has to date reviewed and provided comments on six chapters of the document, including the chapters addressing the coastal boundary, management authorities, federal consistency and the nonpoint pollution control program. An initial review discussion on Chapter 7 (Program Organization and Implementation) and a second review discussion on Chapters 9, 11 and 12 are scheduled for June 12.

Following NOAA's review and concurrence, OWR will request input and comment from relevant Federal Agencies, to identify the coastal issues and areas to be in the national interest and in the siting of energy facilities. OWR will place revised draft ICMP documents on the ICMP website to enable review without a massive printing and document sending effort. Also at this time, the OWR will request input and comment from the Coastal Advisory Group (CAG) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The OWR will revise the ICMP document following comments and input from the Federal agencies, the CAG and the TAC. The revised document will then be submitted to NOAA for a determination as to the acceptance of the draft ICMP document for the IDNR to conduct a public hearing. The IDNR will hold a public hearing on the ICMP document following which the IDNR will respond to comments from public and federal agencies.

Below are some of the key remaining steps that will be required for program approval. OWR and NOAA will work closely in satisfying these requirements, as they require a joint effort.

- NOAA and IDNR hold Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping meetings.
- NOAA and IDNR jointly develop Environmental Assessment (EA), federal section and combine document.
- NOAA conducts formal "threshold review" of hearing document and EA.
- NOAA and IDNR complete draft EIS (DEIS), public review notice.
- NOAA and IDNR respond to public comments, revise DEIS, produce Final EIS (FEIS), submit to Governor for review, documentation and sign-off, and publish and distribute FEIS and Federal Register Notice for review.
- FEIS public review
- NOAA completes Approval Findings with federal agencies' comments appended.
- Formal Program Approval – start Section 306 grants.

NOAA has informed OWR that in order to complete the remaining steps, the earliest that Illinois may be able to obtain program approval will be early 2011.