



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

March 13, 2014

Mr. Brent Perz
Baxter-Woodman
8678 Woodfield Road
Crystal Lake, IL 60012

**RE: West Sewage Treatment Plant Improvements, Crest Hill, Will County
Endangered Species Consultation Program
EcoCAT Review #1408040**

Dear Mr. Perz:

The Department has received your request for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Parts 1075 and 1090 pertaining to plans to demolish and replace existing facilities at the West Sewage Treatment Plant at Theodore Street and Gaylord Road.

As you are aware, the facility shares boundaries with the **Theodore Marsh Land & Water Reserve**, a registered Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site owned by the Forest Preserve District of Will County. These lands and waters are protected pursuant to the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17] which provides substantial penalties for adverse modification. Consequently, it is important to implement measures to assure that demolition and construction activities at the West Sewage Treatment Plant do not adversely modify conditions within the Land & Water Reserve.

The Department has determined the proposed activities will not adversely modify any wetlands within the purview of Part 1090. No further action pursuant to the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989 is required.

The Department offers the following recommendations.

Recommendation #1: The City should coordinate closely with the Forest Preserve District of Will County to assure the District is aware of the scope and timing of activities at the West Sewage Treatment Plant. This will permit the District to take account of the City's activities when planning its own management activities at the Land & Water Reserve, as well as permitting the District to advise the City of particular risks which may arise from planned actions at the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Recommendation #2: The City should arrange for an accurate survey to mark property lines encompassing the Sewage Treatment Plant on those sides abutting the Land & Water Reserve. The

survey should be coordinated with the Forest Preserve District of Will County to assure there is agreement on the placement of markers.

Recommendation #3: All contractor personnel should be advised of the presence of the Land & Water Reserve, the penalties provided for violations of the Reserve's protections, and the measures included in the contracts to prevent adverse modifications from occurring.

Recommendation #4: If room within the Treatment Plant grounds allows, establish buffer areas in which no work will occur to protect the property lines with the Land & Water Reserve.

Recommendation #5: Assure that all required water quality erosion control measures are implemented and diligently maintained throughout the course of the work.

*Recommendation #6: Advise all contractor personnel to be alert for wildlife which may be present within the established work limits and establish measures for its protection. Although this Department has no recent records (since 1994) at Theodore Marsh, and the grounds of the Sewage Treatment Plant may not contain ideal habitat, it is possible that State-listed endangered or threatened species may be present within the Treatment Plant grounds. In particular, workers should be alert for the endangered **Blanding's Turtle**, *Emydoidea blandingii*; the endangered **Yellow-Headed Blackbird**, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*; and the threatened **Common Moorhen**, *Gallinula chloropus*. The Blanding's Turtle, in particular may be attracted to recently disturbed areas and stockpiles of stored construction materials, such as sand, gravel, and stored soils, to use as nesting areas. Appropriate measures could include providing personnel with photographs of these species, measures for the notification of the Department or the Forest Preserve District of Will County, and measures for the temporary suspension of work which threatens the animals. Project personnel may not handle, harass, or otherwise interfere with protected species.*

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless the City of Crest Hill desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the City should notify IDNR of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether it will:

- Proceed with the action as originally proposed;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; or the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitats, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review primarily reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of this consultation, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments.

If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that closure of consultation does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith M. Shank". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "S".

Keith M. Shank
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