

NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

The design of the Water Treatment Filter Facility Project is nearly complete and the City of Rock Island is seeking financial assistance with the cost of the construction from the State of Illinois in the form of a low interest loan (IEPA Loan Project Number: L175278). One of the requirements of the loan program is a review of the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the facilities plan and reached a preliminary conclusion that the project is technically sound and cost effective. Unless new information is gained from the public that causes reconsideration, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will approve the facilities plan at the close of the public comment period.

The Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review for the project is available for public review at the following locations:

1. Public Works Department, 1309 Mill Street, Rock Island
2. City Manager's Office, 1528 3rd Avenue, Rock Island
3. The City's website at www.rigov.org. Visit the "Documents" section on the front page.
4. The Reference Desk at the Rock Island Public Library, 401 19th Street

Verbal and written comments in reference to the Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review will be accepted until Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Written comments may be sent to Michael J. Kane, P.E., City Engineer, 1309 Mill Street, Rock Island, IL 61201 or George Lambert, Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 1021 North Grand Avenue, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276.



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

ALEC MESSINA, ACTING DIRECTOR

Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Date: **NOV - 7 2016**

Loan Applicant: City of Rock Island

IEPA Loan Project Number: L175278

To all interested persons:

Section 662.520 of the Illinois Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Public Water Supply Loan Program requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) publish a Notice of Categorical Exclusion for proposed projects which by their nature are of such limited scope as to have little or no potential for having negative environmental impacts related to their construction. Prior to granting its approval of the facilities plan, the Agency requires that the public be granted an opportunity to comment as to whether in fact the project should be precluded from the formal environmental review process and public hearing.

The IEPA has reviewed the above cited facilities plan and concurs with the applicant's finding that the proposed project is technically appropriate and cost effective. Unless new information provided through the public comment process causes reconsideration, the Agency will approve this planning at the close of the public comment period.

The applicant is required to public notice that the Agency has issued the attached Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion, make this document available for public inspection, and allow 10 days for public comment. During this comment period, written comments may be provided to the applicant or directly to the IEPA contact person identified in the attached document. Upon final approval of this plan, the project priority score may be modified to reflect new information provided in the planning in accordance with the provisions of Section 663.160 of the Procedures and requirements for Determining Loan Priorities of Projects in the Public Water Supply Loan Program.

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

Your interest and participation in this process are appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Bingenheimer".

Gary Bingenheimer, P.E.

Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
Bureau of Water

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Attachment

4302 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760
9511 Harrison St., Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000
595 S. State, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131
2125 S. First St., Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800

2009 Mall St., Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120
412 SW Washington St., Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022
2309 W. Main St., Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200
100 W. Randolph, Suite 10-300, Chicago, IL 60601

Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion

In accordance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Loan Rules, Title 35, Subtitle F, Chapter II, Part 662.520 (State Environmental Review), the IEPA has determined that the proposed project, described below, may be excluded from a detailed environmental impacts review. The Agency may categorically exclude certain types of projects from environmental review if no potential for negative environmental impacts exists.

This report is based on information submitted to the IEPA by the City of Rock Island. Sources of information include the following documents: City of Rock Island Project Plan for New Filtration Facility prepared by CDM Smith Inc. dated June 14, 2016.

Part I – Project Information

Project Name:	Filtration Facility		
Loan Applicant:	City of Rock Island		
County:	Rock Island	Project Number:	L175278
Current Population:	38,600	Future Population (20 year):	37,200

Project Description: This project will build a new filtration facility at the Rock Island Water Treatment Plant to provide 12 MGD of firm capacity. The facility will have eight new dual-media gravity filters designed to meet all current regulations. Once the new filtration facility is brought on-line, filtration will no longer be a hydraulic bottle-neck to the treatment process. Upon completion of the project, the existing filtration facility will be demolished.

Project Location: The new filtration facility will be built on the existing Rock Island water treatment plant property on the eastern side of the existing filtration facility. See attached map for project location.

Project Justification:

The existing filtration facility was originally constructed in 1910 and expanded in 1961. The existing building and equipment have surpassed their service life. The filtration facility currently has a capacity of only 9 MGD, and so the water treatment plant cannot produce water at its rated capacity of 12 MGD. The age of the filters makes replacement parts difficult to obtain. Plant staffs frequently have to cannibalize parts from two permanently broken filters to repair the filters remaining in service. Additionally, the design of gravity filters has improved in the intervening years, and the existing filters do not meet the current best practices for filter design and operation.

Estimated Construction Start Date: March 30, 2017

Estimated Construction Completion Date: March 30, 2019

Project Cost Estimate: \$30,000,000

Part II – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

The applicant is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP). Annual repayments on a PWSLP loan in the amount of \$30,000,000 at an estimated interest rate of 1.64% for a term of twenty (20) years are \$1,860,162. A rate increase is necessary to repay the loan.

Source of Loan Repayment: User fees

Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$35.00 per month (2016), typically billed quarterly

Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$42.12 per month (2020)

Average Monthly Residential Water Use: 584 ft³

Number of Customers or Service Connections: 14,991 residential, 179 non-residential

How is the monthly residential rate/cost of service calculated? The base rate flat service charge is \$17.13 / month for a 5/8" meter connection. The service charge for water usage is \$3.06 per 100 ft³ for the first 5,000 ft³ per month, and \$2.80 per 100 ft³ for the next 295,000 ft³ per month consumed.

For the average user, this calculates to: $\$17.13 + 5.84 * \$3.06 = \$35.00/\text{month}$

Current Annual Average Cost of Service: \$420

Proposed Annual Average Cost of Service: \$505.44

Median Household Income (MHI): \$40,654

Current Percentage of MHI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service: 1.04%

Proposed Percentage of MHI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service: 1.24%

Annual Cost of Service/MHI is an affordability ratio used by IEPA. If less than 2% of the median household income is required to pay the average, annual residential user rate, the project is considered affordable by IEPA standards.

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

George Lambert, 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

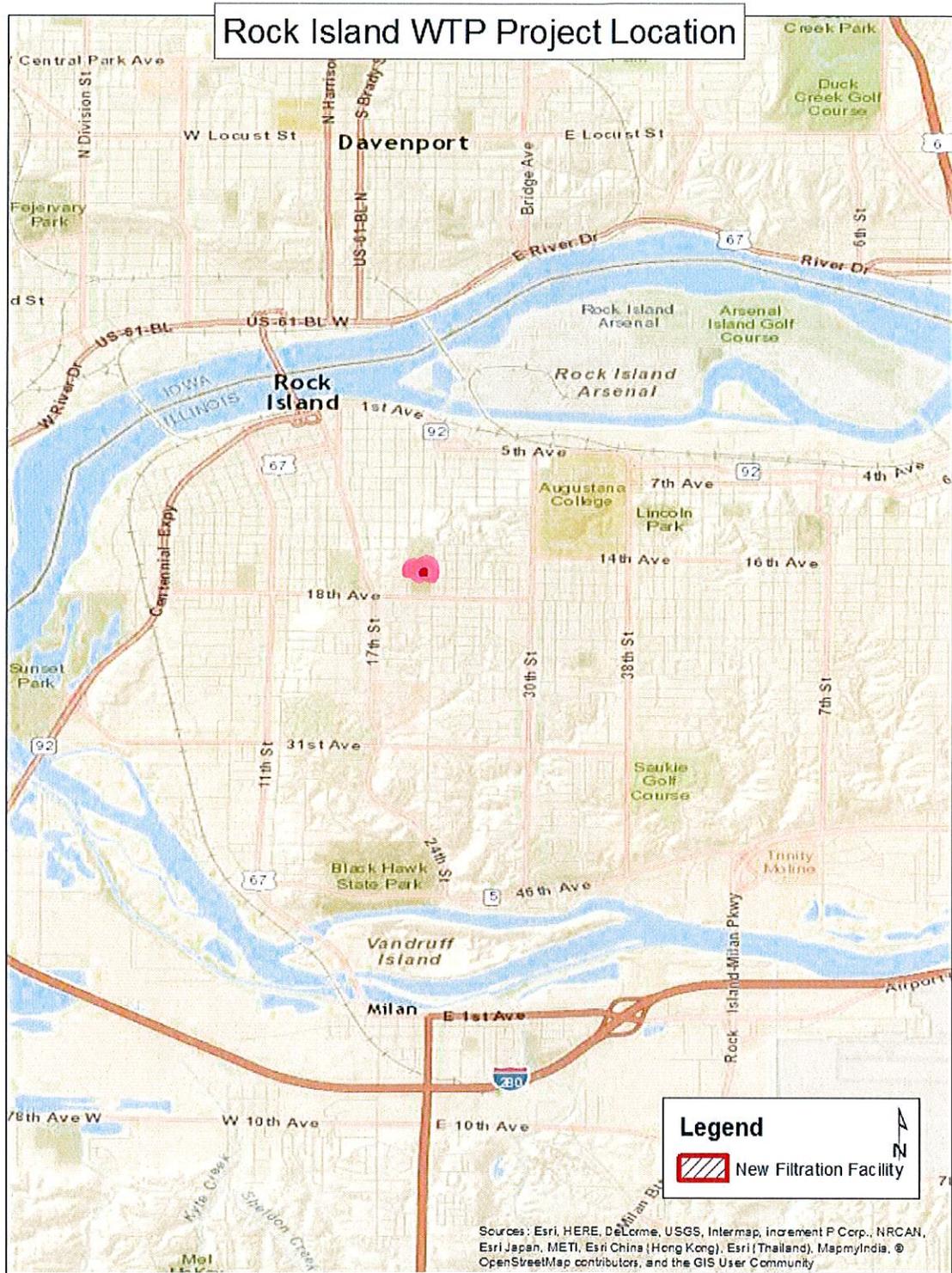


Figure 3-2 Rock Island proposed new filtration facility relative to local community