



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: City of Springfield-City
Water, Light & Power

Date: July 01, 2021
Expires: July 30, 2021

CEMVR-OD-P-2016-0095

Authority: Section 404 of the
Clean Water Act
(33 U.S. Code 1344)

**Change of the Project Purpose and Need
to include Aquatic Recreation for the ongoing
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the
Springfield Supplemental Water Supply Project**

- 1. Applicant:** City of Springfield, City, Water, Light & Power, 800 East Monroe, Springfield, Illinois 62757.
- 2. Project Location:** IL-New City and Pawnee USGS quad sheets in Sangamon County, Illinois.
- 3. Summary:** The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to address the proposed Springfield Supplemental Water Supply and Aquatic Recreation Project (previously referred to as the Springfield Supplemental Water Supply Project) in Sangamon County, IL.
- 4. Supplemental Information:**

A. The City operates an integrated water supply, purification, transmission, and distribution system. The City's service area encompasses approximately 100 square miles with more than 52,600 service connections and a population of about 147,000. The City's current source of water is Lake Springfield which was constructed in the 1930's. The lake serves as the water source for the City's drinking water supply and the cooling water supply for the City's coal-fired power generating station. As a result of drought conditions in 1953-1955, the City constructed a movable low head dam across the South Fork of the Sangamon River to supplement the Lake Springfield water supply during low lake levels.

B. On July 26, 1989, the City submitted a joint permit application for the construction of the Hunter Lake Reservoir to the Corps and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). A Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft EIS for the construction of the Hunter Lake Reservoir was published by the Corps in the Federal Register on October 31, 1989. The Corps, working in conjunction with the City of Springfield, Office of Public Utilities, also known as the City Water, Light & Power (City), prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 [42 USC §§ 4321 *et. seq.*] that evaluated a range of alternatives to provide supplemental water supply to meet a projected deficit in water availability. A final EIS was prepared and published in

November of 2000, and the construction of the Hunter Lake Reservoir was identified as the preferred alternative. The Final EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 24, 2000; however, no Record of Decision was issued, due to project changes and unmet water quality conditions from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA),

C. On December 17, 2010, the Corps notified the City by letter that the FEIS needed to be supplemented due to the age of the data and to fully evaluate alternatives. The Corps letter to the City formally determined the need for a SEIS. The Corps identified areas in the SEIS where information should be updated, such as water demand analysis, threatened and endangered species surveys, wetland delineations, programmatic agreement related to cultural resources, water quality anti-degradation analysis, and stream/wetland mitigation plans. The permit application was withdrawn pending receipt of the additional information.

D. On January 27, 2016, the Corps received a permit application from the City for the proposed Hunter Lake to be used as a supplemental water supply for Springfield. On August 15, 2016, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) was published in the Federal Register and a public notice was issued announcing the NOI to prepare an SEIS. This initiated a scoping period and alternatives were considered for a supplemental water supply that could provide the City with 12 million gallons per day, based on an updated water demand analysis that demonstrated a sustained need for additional water supply to meet current and future demands.

E. On July 31, 2018, the City requested that recreation be added as an additional primary purpose and need for their water supply project. In August 2018, the Corps requested that the City provide them with additional information to support a demand and need for aquatic recreation opportunities in the Springfield region. On February 4, 2020, the City hired the University of Illinois (U of I) to conduct an aquatic recreation demand study. On September 24, 2020, the U of I completed the recreation demand study which demonstrated an unmet demand and need for aquatic recreation activities to meet current and future demands in the greater Springfield area. On June 4, 2021, the City requested to add the demand and needs for aquatic recreation activities to the project's purpose and need for the screening of alternatives for the SEIS.

F. In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations specified in 40 CFR § 1502.9, the Corps in conjunction with the City are making a modification to the project purpose and need for the preparation of the SEIS. The intent of this public notice (PN) is to solicit comments for project alternatives for NEPA and the SEIS only. After the draft SEIS (DSEIS) is completed, a DSEIS Notice of Availability (NOA) PN will be released along with the complete permit application PN for the City's preferred alternative. This approach will provide a clear path for the public and agencies to review both the DSEIS and the City's proposed permit application and allow for comments on both the NEPA document as well as the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit application.

5. Project Need:

A. Water Supply: Based on an analysis of the storage and capacity, the Illinois State Water Survey had determined that Lake Springfield is an inadequate water supply system with a 50 percent probability of not meeting expected water supply demands. Under conditions of reduced water availability, the City is at risk of not meeting demands (both existing and future) for commercial and residential water use, for industrial water supply (power plant operation and condenser cooling), and for providing supplemental water for adjacent communities. Under projected drought conditions, the estimated water deficit (demand minus yield) is currently 8.2 million gallons per day (MGD), whereas future deficits (year 2065) are projected at 11.3 MGD. The City wishes to meet the supplemental water supply of 12 MGD to the year 2065.

B. Aquatic Recreation: The City hired the University of Illinois to conduct an aquatic recreation supply and demand study which focused on fishing, fishing tournaments, waterfowl bird watching & hunting, boating, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, and water skiing within a 50+ mile radius of Springfield. The study concluded that there is an unmet demand for 12,773 acres of these aquatic recreation activities within the 50+ mile radius of Springfield to the year 2035. The City wishes to meet a portion of the unmet demand for aquatic recreation activities to meet current and future demands to the year 2035. The City of Springfield desires to construct a multi-use reservoir encompassing approximately 2,650 acres in surface area. The reservoir will have a minimum yield of 12 million gallons per day (MGD) to meet water supply demands under drought conditions and a minimum of 2,500 acres of flat water area available to recreation to partially address the unmet water-based recreational demand in the Springfield area.

E. Other incidental benefits of an increased water supply and aquatic recreation include providing support for regional economic development.

F. Details of the Aquatic Recreation Demand Study and other project documents may be viewed at: <http://supplementalwater.cwlp.com/Documents.aspx> .

6. **Proposed Action:** The proposed Federal action is the issuance of a permit by the Corps pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to facilitate the development of the selected water supply and aquatic recreation opportunities alternative. The Corps is neither a proponent nor an opponent of the City's supplemental water supply and aquatic recreation needs project. The Corps will evaluate all reasonable and practicable alternatives that are proposed for the development of a supplemental water supply for municipal, commercial, and industrial customers, and aquatic recreation needs for the general public within a 50+ mile radius of Springfield.

7. Alternatives:

A. In accordance with requirements of CEQ regulations 40 CFR § 1502.14, and the provisions of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, the SEIS will evaluate all appropriate and reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. The SEIS will review all alternatives previously assessed in the FEIS and will include an analysis of reasonable and practicable alternatives which meet the dual purposes of supplemental water supply and aquatic recreation needs, consisting of the following:

- No Action Alternative.
- Development of a new water supply reservoir that also supplies aquatic recreation opportunities.
- Development of groundwater well systems with associated pump stations and pipelines combined with surface water reservoirs that supply aquatic recreation opportunities.
- Use of other existing surface water reservoirs for water supply and aquatic recreation opportunities.
- Dredging of Lake Springfield for additional water supply and additional aquatic recreation opportunities.

B. Details of the other alternatives under consideration may be viewed at: <http://supplementalwater.cwlp.com>. Consideration of conservation measures is inherent in the City's ongoing objectives to optimize the efficiency of its water supply systems and is therefore inherent in each of the alternatives under evaluation.

8. Scoping Process:

A. The Corps is furnishing this notice to: 1) advise other Federal and state agencies, affected Tribes, and the public of the proposed changes to the project; 2) announce the initiation of an additional 30-day scoping period; and 3) obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues and alternatives to be included in the Draft SEIS. The Corps invites comments from all interested parties to ensure the full range of issues related to the permit request are addressed and that all significant issues are identified.

B. The SEIS will provide updated supporting data where needed, review the purpose and need, evaluate alternatives, and assess impacts of reasonable and practicable alternatives resulting from the development of a supplemental water supply system and aquatic recreation needs for the area. Potentially affected resources include agricultural land, threatened and endangered species, wildlife, water resources, wetlands, streams, and floodplains, forested areas, transportation, recreation and historic properties. Preliminary measures to avoid and minimize impacts will be developed as part of this study. The public's views on the scope of the alternatives that should be addressed in the SEIS will also be considered in the preparation of the SEIS.

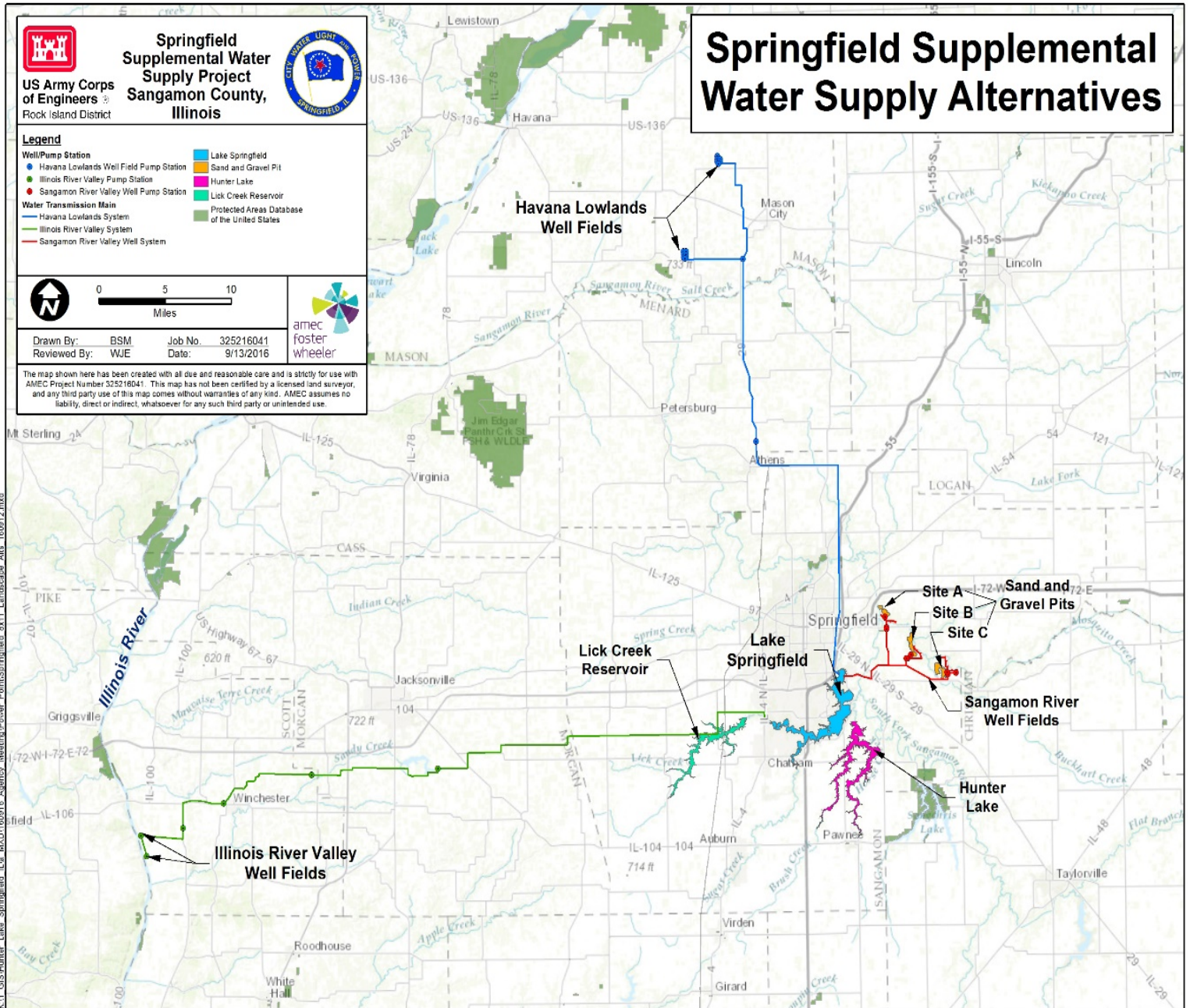
9. Public Participation: The public is invited to submit comments on this public notice no later than the date identified in the "Dates" section of this notice. After the Corps prepares a Draft SEIS, the Corps will release it for public comment. The Corps anticipates holding a public meeting in Springfield after release of the Draft SEIS during the public comment period. Meeting details will be posted on the Corps of Engineer's Rock Island District website, the City of Springfield's website and published in local newspapers. The release of the Draft SEIS is anticipated for the last quarter of 2021, which will also coincide with the issuance of the complete permit application public notice for the preferred alternative.

10. Dates: Comments must be received on or before July 30, 2021

11. Reply to the Corps of Engineers: Written comments should be sent to: ATTN: Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Clock Tower Building, Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. Comments may also be submitted to cemvr-odpublicnotice@usace.army.mil. For additional information contact: Mr. James Kelley, Ph. (309/794-5373).

Mr. James Kelley, Project Manager
Eastern Branch,
Regulatory Division

See attached map of current project alternatives



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