

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
Notice of Water Discharge Permit Public Hearing
NPDES Permit No. IL0077666

Williamson Energy, L.L.C.
Pond Creek Mine No. 1
Williamson and Franklin Counties

Public Hearing
Wednesday, December 18, 2019 6:00pm

Diamond Club, Rent One Park
1000 Miners Drive
Marion, Illinois 62959

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Water has prepared a draft renewed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit with modifications for Williamson Energy, L.L.C., whose mailing address is P.O. Box 300, Johnston City, IL 62951. The Pond Creek Mine facility is located approximately four miles east of Johnston City in Williamson and Franklin Counties and proposes to discharge into Pond Creek, unnamed tributaries of Pond Creek, and into the Big Muddy River. Additional information is available online at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/public-notices/Pages/npdes-individual-notices.aspx> (please enter IL0077666 in the search box above "Posting Data").

The Illinois EPA is holding a hearing to accept comments from the public on the proposed reissuance of a permit with modifications for this project, prior to making a final decision on the permit application. Issues relevant to this proceeding include the antidegradation analysis and the applicant's compliance with requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and Subtitles C and D, 35 Ill. Adm. Code. Issues related to the mining operations are not relevant in this proceeding and should be directed to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals.

The applicant operates surface facilities for an underground coal mine (SIC 1222). Mine operations result in the discharge of alkaline and acid mine drainage.

Comments are invited on the draft reissued permit which incorporates the following modifications:

1. Addition of three new outfalls designated as Outfall Numbers 009, 009ES, and 011;
2. Incorporation of various mining operation and drainage control plan revisions;
3. Incorporation of 229.78 acres for new Disposal Area Number 3;
4. Incorporation of 70.7 acres for a pipeline to the Big Muddy River;
5. Incorporation of 145.32 acres for Incidental Boundary Revisions (IBR's).
6. Addition of bi-annual metals monitoring for Outfall Numbers 006, 007, 008, 009, 009ES, and 011; and,
7. Incorporation of previously-issued State Construction and Operating Permits.

The Illinois EPA has made a tentative determination to reissue this NPDES permit with modifications for discharge into waters of the state in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code Subtitle C (Water Pollution),

Subtitle D (Mine Related Water Pollution), the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and the federal Clean Water Act. The draft NPDES permit and the public notice/fact sheet were public noticed on July 12, 2019. The antidegradation assessment, which is part of the public notice, and other documents for this proceeding can be viewed on the IEPA website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/public-notices/Pages/npdes-individual-notices.aspx> (please enter IL0077666 in the search box above "Posting Data").

The draft permit, public notice/fact sheet, the regulations governing the conduct of the hearing and other documents can be reviewed and copied at the Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois; 217-782-0610. Please call ahead for an appointment.

For information or requests about the draft permit, please contact: Barb Lieberoff, Office of Community Relations, Illinois EPA, 1021 N. Grand Ave. East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, 217/524-3038 or by email at barb.lieberoff@illinois.gov

The hearing will be conducted under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 166 in accordance with provisions of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.115 through 309.119. Requests for special needs interpreters must be made to the Illinois EPA hearing officer by November 22, 2019. The hearing record is a file containing the hearing transcript and written comments. **Written comments must be physically received by January 17, 2020; mailed comments must be postmarked in sufficient time to arrive at Illinois EPA by January 17, 2020 when the hearing record closes.**

E-mails with written comments must be sent to epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov and should specify **Pond Creek Mine or IL0077666 in the subject line**. Email comments originating on third party systems or servers intended for submittal of multiple emails of the same or nearly the same content will not be accepted without prior written approval from the hearing officer, Christine Zeivel, Christine.Zeivel@illinois.gov. Comments need not be notarized and should be sent to:

Barb Lieberoff, Mail Code #5
Re: Pond Creek Mine NPDES
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P. O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
Phone 217-524-3038

email comments: epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov
TDD (hearing impaired) 866/273-5488