

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Princeville, Illinois will conduct a public hearing, at the Village Hall, 206 North Walnut, Princeville, Illinois on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:45 P.M. The purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity for public input regarding the Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements that will be funded by IEPA loan.

The following project summary and environmental assessment has been prepared by the IEPA to assist the loan applicant in complying with the public notice requirements. This report is based on information submitted to the IEPA by the Village of Princeville. Sources of information include the following documents: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project Plan Report, dated February 2022, and, in response to IEPA requests for additional information, emails with attachments dated December 20, 2022, and February 1, 2023, both prepared by Bruner, Cooper & Zuck, Inc.

Part I - Project Information

Project Name: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Project Number: L17 6143

Loan Applicant: Village of Princeville

County: Peoria

Current Population: 1,738

Future Population (20 year): 1,738

Number Service Connections: 671 customers; 598 residential

Project Description: The Village owns, operates, and maintains a wastewater collection system, three lift stations and two wastewater treatment plants. The southwest treatment plant operates as an excess flow facility. The northeast plant serves as the primary treatment plant and consists of primary and secondary aerated lagoons followed by a facultative tertiary lagoon and sand filters. This plant operates under NPDES Permit No. IL0051276. Treated effluent from the plant is discharged to North Creek.

The proposed project includes upgrades to the lift station located at the southwest treatment plant to redirect all flow to the northeast treatment plant. The southwest treatment plant will be abandoned which will eliminate the needs for a NPDES permit for this plant. A new force main will be constructed from the southwest plant directly to the northeast plant. A new lift station at the northeast plant will be constructed. Other improvements at the northeast plant will include stormwater holding ponds, an overflow pipe and pump at the northeast lift station to handle stormwater overflow, replacement of effluent flow meter, replacement of media in sand filters, rehabilitation of flow splitter and installation of new bar screen.

Project Location: The project will be completed primarily at the existing southwest and northeast treatment facilities as shown on the attached project location map. The force main has two route options that are shown on the attached map of proposed force main options.

Project Justification: This project is part of the response to Illinois EPA violations at the facility. The violations will be addressed with the proposed project improvements.

Estimated Construction Start Date: September 2023

Estimated Construction Completion Date: November

2024 Project Cost Estimate: Approximately

\$5,141,077.50

Part II - Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

The Village of Princeville is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the IEPA Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP). A loan in the amount of \$5,141,077.50 with an Estimated interest rate of 1.24% for a twenty (20) year period would have an annual repayment of approximately \$290,377. The interest rate adjusts annually on July 1st. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at the time a loan agreement is issued.

The loan program rules include provisions for incentives such as reduced interest rates, partial principal forgiveness (a reduction in the amount of principal borrowed that would otherwise have to be repaid), and extended repayment periods for qualifying applicants. The criteria used to determine incentive qualification are found in Section 365.210 and 365.250 of the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the WPCLP, which is available on the Agency's website. The final decision for incentive qualification will be determined at the time a loan agreement is issued, using updated Census Bureau and Department of Labor data. The Agency adjusts qualifying criteria annually on July 1st.

Using current data, the Village is eligible to receive a 20-year loan term, partial principal forgiveness of up to 30% of the loan amount, and a small community interest rate of 0.93% (75% of the base rate). If the Village receives these incentives, the annual debt service would be reduced to approximately \$197,260. The final loan and annual repayment amounts will be based on the as-bid project costs and the loan terms in effect on the date the loan agreement is issued. Applicants that qualify for principal forgiveness will not have a repayment obligation for a portion of their loan. Principal forgiveness and/or a reduced interest rate will reduce the loan payment amount and possibly the associated increases to the user charges. Principal forgiveness is not guaranteed until a loan agreement is issued.

Source of Loan Repayment: An increase in the user rate will be necessary to repay the loan.

Current Average Monthly Residential Sewer Use: 3,220 gallons

The Village of Princeville is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the IEPA Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP). A loan in the amount of \$5,141,077.50 with an estimated interest rate of 1.24% for a twenty (20) year period would have an annual repayment of approximately \$290,377. The interest rate adjusts annually on July 1st. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at the time a loan agreement is issued.

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Current Average Monthly Residential Sewer Use: 3,220 gallons

Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service:

Residential users currently pay \$13.00 flat fee monthly plus \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons each month. Therefore, the average residential sewer cost is approximately \$25.88 per month ($\$13.00 + \4.00×3.22).

Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service:

To repay the loan, a sewer rate increase to the flat fee of \$30 per month is anticipated with the average residential sewer cost increasing to approximately \$55.88 ($\$43.00 + \4.00×3.22).

Median Household Income (MUI): \$58,542

Percentage of MUI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service:
1.15%

Financial Evaluation of the proposed project: To evaluate the costs of the proposed project for the community, a percentage comparison of MHI to the average, annual cost for sewer service is utilized. The projected average annual sewer cost per customer of \$670.56 is 1.15% of the MHI for the Village of Princeville. This percentage is for comparison only and has no impact on whether a project qualifies for funding from the IEPA. The percentage comparison and MHI are two of several criteria used to determine whether a loan project qualifies for program incentives such as interest rate reductions or principal forgiveness.

Part III- Environmental Issues Associated with the Project

Project construction impacts: Temporary adverse environmental impacts such as construction-associated noise, blowing dust, air emissions, traffic disruptions, and soil erosion will likely occur

during construction. The majority of project construction will occur at the existing wastewater treatment facilities and in existing easements and rights-of-way.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources: The Village of Princeville submitted project information to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), State Historic Preservation Office for consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Department has concluded that adverse effects are unlikely.

The Village of Princeville submitted project information to the IDNR EcoCAT website to determine compliance with the Illinois Endangered Species Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, the Illinois Wetlands Act, and Title 17 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 1075 and 1090. The EcoCAT website indicated that the project was in the vicinity of protected Franklin's Ground Squirrel and Loggerhead Shrike. Additionally, the Wetland's Inventory shows wetlands within 250 feet of the project location. The Department issued a letter on January 31, 2022, indicating that adverse effects were unlikely and the consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 and 1090 is terminated.

The IDNR Office Water Resources (OWR) consultation indicates that the project will be covered under the statewide permit program. All terms conditions of this permit will be followed during construction.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): The project was submitted for a consultation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project was determined to not require a permit from USACE.

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

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