



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Blaine
10801 Town Square Drive N.E.
Blaine, Minnesota 55449-8101

Case Docket No. CWA-05-2016-0017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Region 5, is providing this notice of its intent to file a Complaint against the City of Blaine (Respondent) for violations of Sections 301 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. This Complaint proposes a civil penalty for violations alleging that the Respondent discharged fill material into approximately 1.11 acres of wetlands into the Lexington Athletic Complex and 1.22 acres of wetlands into Aquatore Park without a Section 404 permit in 2014. The Lexington Athletic Complex site is southeast of the intersection of Main St. NE and Lexington Ave N in Anoka County, Minnesota. The Aquatore Park site is southeast of the intersection of Clover Leaf Parkway NE and Lincoln St NE in Anoka County, Minnesota. Under this settlement, Respondent will pay a civil penalty of \$90,000. The alleged violations are of environmental significance because stream side wetlands at the Lexington Athletic Complex site serve to filter surface and ground waters before they eventually reach downstream Rice Creek, and the stream side wetlands at the Aquatore site serve to filter surface and ground waters before they reach adjacent Springbrook Creek (also known as County Ditch 17). Both wetlands provide critical habitat and flood storage.

A copy of the Proposed CAFO may be viewed online at: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-5#events by clicking on the "Proposed Consent Agreement and Final Order" link on the Region 5 events calendar for the docket number identified above. Alternatively, the complaint may be received by contacting the Regional Hearing Clerk at the address listed below.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT: Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1319(g) requires that interested persons be given notice of the proposed penalty and a reasonable opportunity to comment on it. Any person who wishes to comment on this proposed CAFO may submit written comments, may attend or present evidence at any hearing scheduled on this matter, or both, by following the procedures in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 22, Section 45 (40 C.F.R. § 22.45), particularly subpart (C) *comment by a person who is not a party*. This portion of the code of federal regulations may be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title40-vol1-sec22-45.pdf> or through <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/>. You may also wish to review 40 C.F.R. Part 22 to learn more about the procedures and rules of practice

governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties.

Comments should be made in writing to the Regional Hearing Clerk at:

Case Docket No. CWA-05-2016-0017
Regional Hearing Clerk
Mail Code E-19J
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Written comments may be submitted to the Regional Hearing Clerk by email to whitehead.ladawn@epa.gov; or by mail or delivery to the Clerk's address above. Your comments should include the case name, docket number, and your complete mailing address. If you plan to deliver your comments or other documents in person, please call the Regional Hearing Clerk at (312) 886-3713 for further instructions. Comments and documents sent to any EPA employee other than the Regional Hearing Clerk are not assured of consideration in this matter.

Note that the Agency requires your mailing address because we must use the U.S. Postal Service should we need to reply, request additional information or notify you of a hearing, and to provide a copy of any consent agreement and proposed final order.

All written comments must be received in the Regional Hearing Clerk's Office no later than 4:00 p.m., Central Time, of the Comment Period End Date shown on the Region 5 events calendar page for this docket number: www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-5#events.

All documents filed in this proceeding (including documents submitted by the Respondent or by the public) are available for public inspection by appointment only between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the EPA Regional Office. An appointment for such an inspection may be made by calling (312) 886-3713 or by writing the Regional Hearing Clerk at the address above.

If this Proposed CAFO is filed in its present form, no hearing will be held in this matter. If a hearing is held, we will advise commenters who (during the public comment period) submitted a written request to participate in a hearing of the date, time, and place of the hearing, which they may attend and present evidence on the appropriateness of the proposed penalty assessment by following the instructions in 40 C.F.R. 22.45(c)(1).

Only persons who during the comment period submit written comments or ask to participate in any hearing held in this matter preserve a right to petition the Regional Administrator to set aside any consent agreement and proposed final order on the basis that material evidence was not considered, as described in 40 C.F.R. 22.45(c)(4).