Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality
Waterways Section

Publication Date:
February 09, 2026

IDEM Permit Number:
WQC001437

PUBLIC NOTICE

Closing Date:
March 2, 2026

Corps of Engineers ID Number:
LRC-2025-531

To all interested parties:
This letter shall serve as a formal notice of the receipt of an application for Section 401 Water Quality Certification by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The purpose of the notice is to inform the public of active applications submitted for water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341) and to solicit comments and information on any impacts to water quality related to the proposed project. IDEM will evaluate whether the project complies with Indiana's water quality standards as set forth at 327 IAC 2.

1. Applicant:
Fotios Fouskas
Northern Indiana Public Service Company
801 E 86th Ave
Merrillville, IN, 46410-6271

2. Agent:
Emily Volz
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
5778 W 74th St
Indianapolis, IN, 46278-1754

3. Project location:
The project spans approximately 9.8 miles across Highland, Griffith, and Gary in Lake County, Indiana. The westernmost point is near the intersection of Henry Street and Laporte Avenue in Highland, and the easternmost point is near 3003 E 15th Place in Gary.
Latitude: 41.5593 Longitude: -87.4635

4. Affected waterbodies:
Wetlands Regulated under CWA Section 404/401

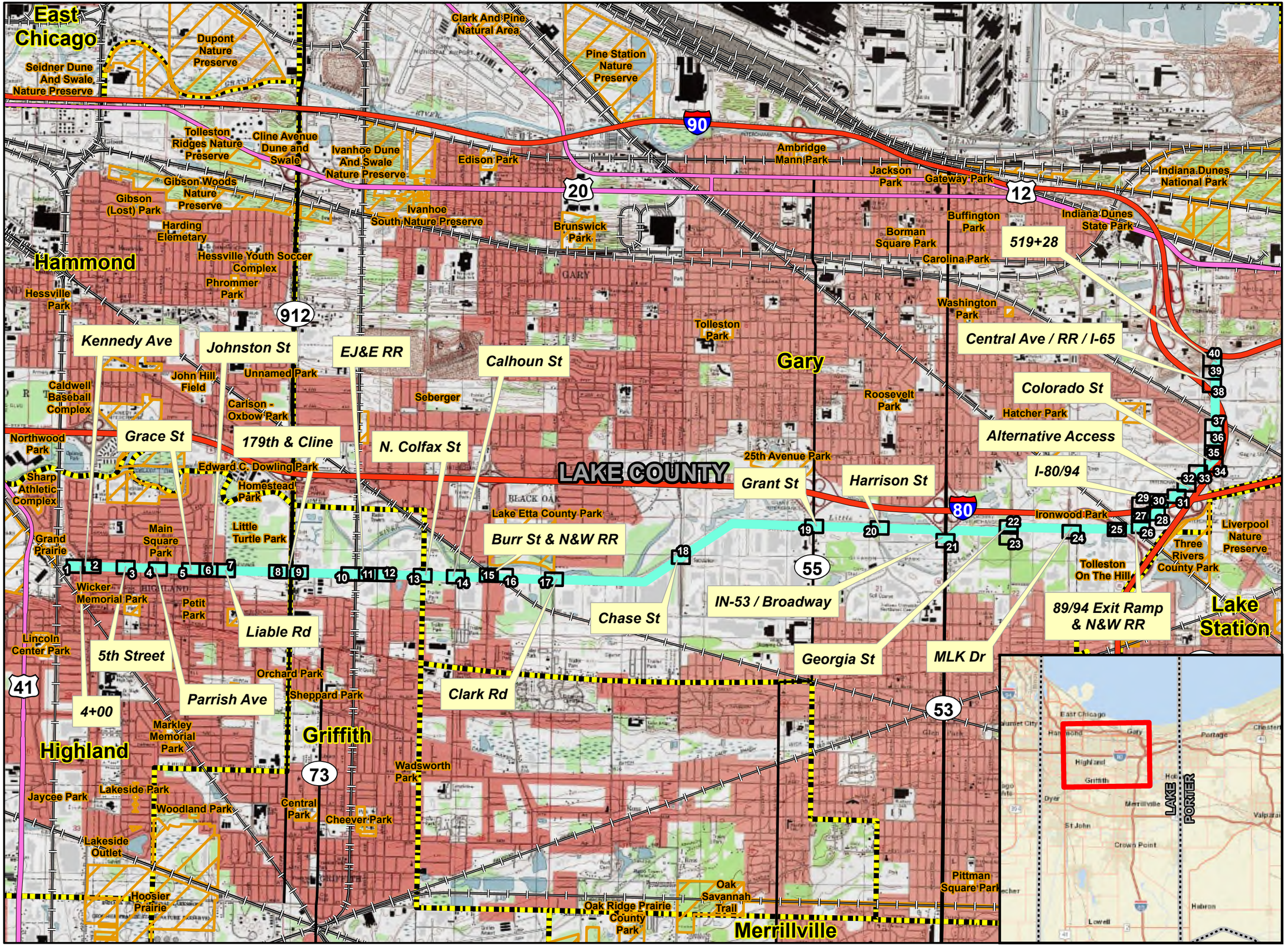
5. Project Description:
The project plans to perform pipeline grouting work for the in-place retirement of a natural gas pipeline. Temporary wetland impacts are anticipated from the installation of construction matting for site access. Disturbed areas will be reseeded and restored to pre-construction grade. The project will result in a total of 1.81 acres of temporary impact to fourteen individual sections of emergent wetlands. No mitigation is proposed for this project. For additional information visit the Regulatory ePortal at: https://stormwater.idem.in.gov/nsite/default/map/results/detail/4008125/49,48

Comment period:
Any person or entity who wishes to submit comments or information relevant to the aforementioned project may do so by the closing date noted above. Only comments or information related to water quality or potential impacts of the project on water quality can be considered by IDEM in the water quality certification review process.

Public Hearing:
Any person may submit a written request that a public hearing be held to consider issues related to water quality in connection with the project detailed in this notice. The request for a hearing should be submitted within the comment period to be considered timely. The request should also state the reason for the public hearing as specifically as possible to assist IDEM in determining whether a public hearing is warranted.

Questions?
Additional information may be obtained by contacting WaterwaysComments@idem.IN.gov. In the subject line of the email, please include the IDEM ID Number listed in the top right corner of the first page of this public notice. Indicate if you wish to receive a copy of IDEM's final decision. Written comments and inquiries may be forwarded to -

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Avenue
MC65-42 WQS IGCN 1255
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251 FAX: 317/232-8406



NIPSCO

- Existing Pipeline
- Sheet Index
- County Boundary
- City / Town
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Railway
- Managed Land

0 1,900 3,800
Feet

DESIGNED BY	STANTEC	1/12/2026	X
DRAWN BY	STANTEC	1/12/2026	X
CHECKED BY	NRP	1/12/2026	X
AS-BUILT BY			X
	NAME	DATE	PHONE

SWPPP

HIGHLAND JUNCTION TO 15TH PL RETIREMENT
HIGHLAND, GRIFFITH & GARY, LAKE

DRAWING TITLE:

PROJECT VICINITY

DRAWING NO:

APPENDIX 5

TABLE 6
WETLAND (SYSTEM-WIDE) PERMANENT SEEDING SPECIFICATIONS

LAND USES:
Recommended Wetland Areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	% of Mix
Permanent Grasses/Sedges/Rushes		
River Bulrush	*Bolboschoenus fluviatilis*	3.7%
Bristly Sedge	*Carex comosa*	3.7%
Common Lake Sedge	*Carex lacustris*	1.2%
Bottlebrush Sedge	*Carex lurida*	4.9%
Common Tussock Sedge	*Carex stricta*	4.9%
Brown Fox Sedge	*Carex vulpinoidea*	4.9%
Great Spike Rush	*Eleocharis palustris*	1.2%
Common Rush	*Juncus effusus*	7.3%
Chairmaker's Rush	*Schoenoplectus pungens*	2.4%
Great Bulrush	*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*	7.3%
Forbs		
Sweet Flag	*Acorus americanus*	4.9%
Common Water Plantain	*Alisma subcordatum*	2.4%
Swamp Milkweed	*Asclepias incarnata*	4.9%
New England Aster	*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*	4.9%
Golden Alexander	*Zizia aurea*	8.5%
Spotted Joe-Pye Weed	*Eutrochium maculatum*	2.4%
Blue Flag	*Iris virginica v. shrevei*	7.3%
Cardinal Flower	*Lobelia cardinalis*	4.9%
Great Blue Lobelia	*Lobelia siphilitica*	4.9%
Common Arrowhead	*Sagittaria latifolia*	6.1%
Blue Vervain	*Verbena hastata*	7.3%
Total		**100%**

Notes:
1. Seed at a rate of 6 to 8 to pounds per acre.
2. Add an additional 5 pounds annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) and 20 pounds common oats (*Avena sativa*) per acre to provide temporary cover until the permanent mix is established.

The purpose of this seed mix is to establish native wetland species to areas that have been designated as categorized wetlands. It includes a combination of warm and cool season species that will grow throughout the entire year. This seed mix has been designed to be planted at any time during the calendar year.

TABLE 10
INDIANA STEEP SLOPE PERMANENT SEEDING SPECIFICATIONS

LAND USES:
Steep Slope Stabilization
General Slope (3:1 or less)

Common Name	Scientific Name	% of Mix
Indiangrass	*Sorghastrum nutans*	25%
Canada Wildrye	*Elymus canadensis*	25%
Switchgrass	*Panicum virgatum*	15%
Virginia Wild Rye	*Elymus virginicus*	15%
Little Blue Stem	*Schizachyrium scoparium*	10%
Partridge Pea	*Chamaecrista fasciculata*	3%
Common Milkweed	*Asclepias syriaca*	1%
Purple coneflower	*Echinacea purpurea*	1%
Black-Eyed Susan	*Rudbeckia hirta*	5%
Total	--	**100%**

Notes:
1. Seed at a rate of 15 to 20 to pounds per acre.
2. Add an additional 47 pounds common oats (*Avena sativa*) per acre to provide temporary cover until the permanent mix is established.

The purpose of this seed mix is to establish native, deep rooting vegetative species that will aid in stabilizing steep slopes. It includes a combination of warm and cool season species that will grow throughout the entire year. This seed mix has been designed to be planted at any time during the calendar year.