



Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality
Wetlands Section

Publication Date:
March 9, 2026

IDEM Permit Number:
WQC001412

PUBLIC NOTICE

Closing Date:
March 30, 2026

Corps of Engineers ID Number:
Unknown

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: | Kylie Roehrl
NIPSCO
801 E 86th Ave
Merrillville, IN, 46410-6271 | 2. Agent: | Eric Bender
WSP
5665 Flatiron Pkwy
Boulder, CO, 80301-3089 |
| 3. Project location: | Linear project extending between the NIPSCO Reynolds Substation (40.771849, -86.867070) and the NIPSCO Burr Oak Substation (41.257672, -86.4225404).
White, Pulaski, Starke, and Marshall Counties | | |
| 4. Affected waterbodies: | 18 federally jurisdictional emergent wetlands. | | |
| 5. Project Description: | The installation of new circuit onto existing support structures extending approximately 41 miles from the Reynolds Substation to the Burr Oak substation, in order to increase grid reliability, support growing demand, and interconnect renewable energy systems. Temporary impacts to emergent wetlands by placement of construction matting will total 3.867 acres. All impacted wetlands will be restored to pre-construction conditions. | | |

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 Permit 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

November 21, 2025

Mr. David Cohen
Senior Waterways Specialist
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality, Wetlands Section
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

<via email: LCohen@idem.in.gov>

Re: Request for Section 401 Individual Water Quality Certification for Northern Indiana Public Service Company's Reynolds to Burr Oak Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) proposes to temporarily impact 3.867 acres of Waters of the U.S (WOTUS) due to the Reynolds to Burr Oak Transmission Line Project (Project) located in White, Pulaski, Starke, and Marshall counties, Indiana. Proposed temporary impacts to WOTUS associated with the Project meet all general and specific terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 57: *Electric Utility Line Telecommunications Activities* (NWP 57).

As such, NIPSCO is requesting an individual water quality certification (WQC) from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). **Attachment A** provides an Application For Authorization to Discharge Dredged or Fill Material to Isolated Wetlands and/or Waters of the State (State Form 51821). A Section 401 WQC Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams pre-filing meeting request (State Form 57030) was submitted to IDEM on November 12, 2025 and is also included in **Attachment A**.

Project Description

The Project will involve the installation of a new overhead electric circuit onto existing support structures extending approximately 41 miles from the Reynolds Substation to the Burr Oak substation. An exhibit of the Project location is provided in **Attachment B**. The substation locations are as follows:

- NIPSCO Reynolds Substation; Reynolds, White County; 40.771849°, -86.867070°
- NIPSCO Burr Oak Substation; Burr Oak, Marshall County; 41.257710°, -86.422470°

Aquatic Resources

WSP USA (WSP) conducted an aquatic resource delineation from June 16 to June 25th, 2025, within the Project area. The survey identified 26 palustrine emergent (PEM) wetlands and one multitype PEM/palustrine shrub-scrub wetland. The survey also identified 78 tributaries. NIPSCO assumes all wetlands and tributaries are Waters of the U.S. The Project's aquatic resource delineation report includes the wetland determination data forms for wetland/upland sampling points and photographs of the delineated resources (**Attachment C**).

Wetland Impacts

The Project will temporarily impact 18 wetlands, totaling 3.867 acres. Temporary impacts will consist of the placement of construction mats for access and construction workspace. **Table 1** summarizes temporary impacts. The temporary wetland impacts for the Project are also detailed in **Attachment A**; State Form 51821.

Table 1. Temporary Impacts on Aquatic Resources

Wetland Crossing	USACE District	Dredge/Fill	Temporary Impact (Acres)	Figure Page No. Reference
W-T01-012	Detroit	Construction Mats	0.068	10 of 21
W-T01-011	Detroit	Construction Mats	0.162	11 of 21
W-T01-002	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.320	20/21 of 21
W-T01-002	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.490	20/21 of 21
W-T01-003	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.183	19 of 21
W-T01-005	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.327	16 of 21
W-T01-004	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.010	18 of 21
W-T01-008	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.003	13/14 of 21
W-T01-008	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.451	13/14 of 21
W-T01-007	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.010	15 of 21
W-T01-009	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.136	12 of 21
W-T01-010	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.353	12 of 21
W-T01-013	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.022	9 of 21
W-T01-016	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.071	7 of 21
W-T01-014	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.121	8 of 21
W-T01-014	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.995	8 of 21
W-T01-017	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.009	6 of 21
W-T02-007	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.011	5 of 21
W-T02-005A	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.028	4 of 21
W-T02-004	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.093	3 of 21
W-T02-003	Louisville	Construction Mats	0.004	2 of 21
Total Temporary Impact			3.867	--

Restoration and Mitigation

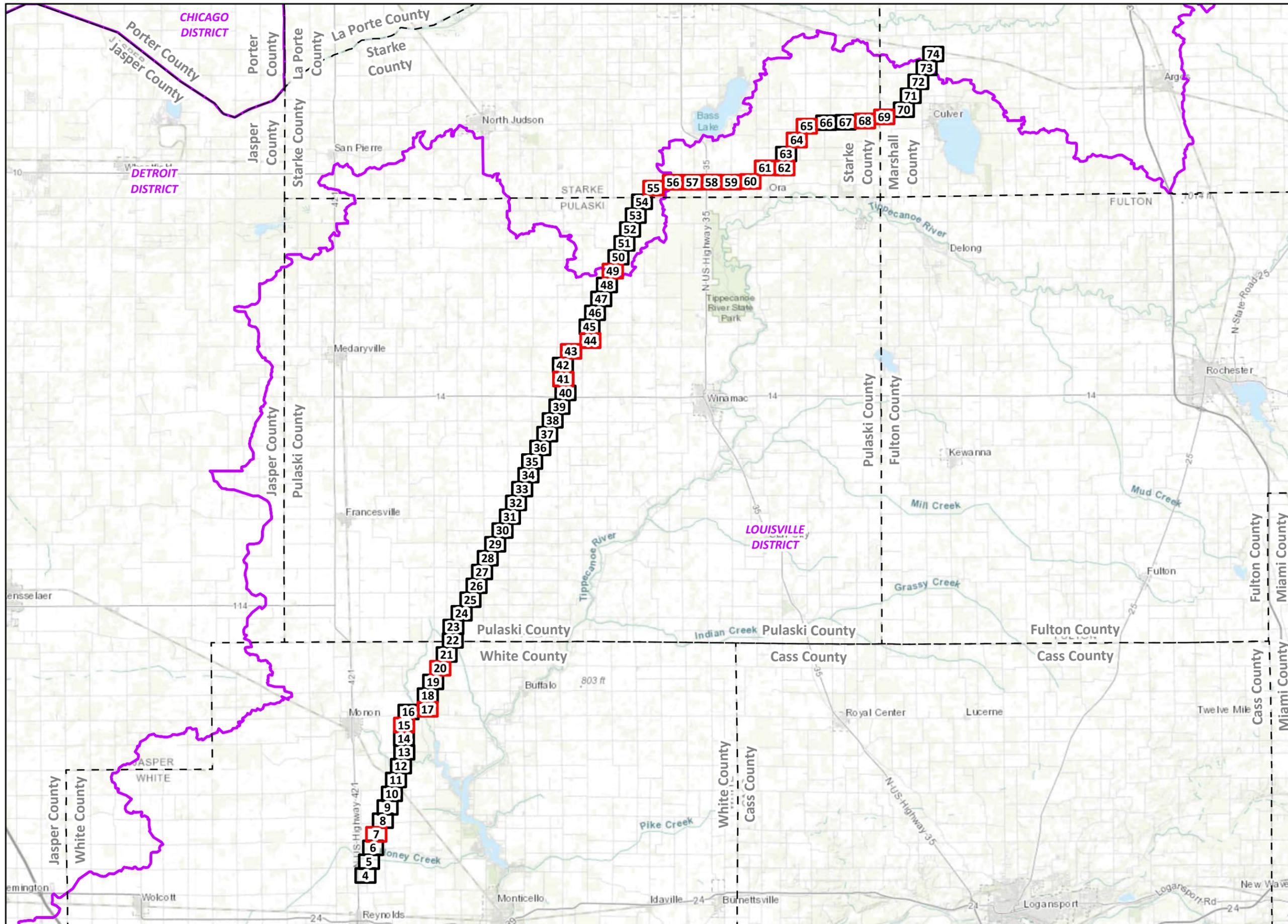
The Project will temporarily impact 3.867 acres of aquatic resources due to the placement of construction mats within 18 wetlands. NIPSCO will restore temporary impacts to preconstruction contours and reseed with a wetland seed mix following NIPSCO General Restoration Plan guidelines (**Attachment D**).

Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species

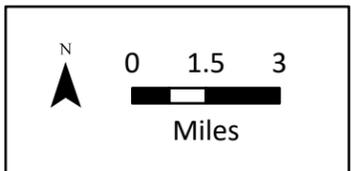
NIPSCO requested a review of the Indiana Natural Heritage Database (INHD) to determine if state endangered, threatened or rare species are documented within 0.5 miles of the proposed Project. A response was received on June 3, 2025. The INHD identified 8 occurrences of high-quality natural communities, 1 occurrence of state-listed amphibian species, 8 occurrences of state-listed bird species, 2 occurrences of insect *Hymenoptera* species, 9 occurrences of insect *Lepidoptera* species, 10 occurrences of state listed mollusk species, 8 occurrences of state-listed reptile species, and 16 occurrences of vascular plant species within 0.5 miles of the Project. The INHD response also identified four managed lands within 0.5 miles of the Project area (**Attachment E**).

- Managed Lands:
 - Spinn Prairie is located approximately 0.14 miles west of the Project area. The Project is not anticipated to affect the Spinn Prairie. Best management practices such as construction matting and filter socks will be used as seen fit to prevent erosion or sediment movement into Spinn Prairie.
 - The Lowe Prairie Wildlife Preserve is located approximately 0.21 miles east of the Project area. The Project is not anticipated to affect the Lowe Prairie.
 - Houghton Lake is located approximately 0.20 miles northwest of the Project area. The Project is not anticipated to affect Houghton Lake.
 - Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area is located 0.56 miles south of the Project area. The Project is not anticipated to affect Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area.
- High Quality Communities:
 - High Quality Communities are associated with Houghton Lake, Spinn Prairie Nature Preserve, Lowe's Prairie, and two private properties. As noted above, managed lands are located outside of the Project area and will not be impacted by the Project. The two private properties are also located outside of the Project area. The Project is located within existing transmission line right-of-way and is not anticipated to impact high quality communities.
- Insects:
 - NIPSCO will utilize best management practices such as construction matting to reduce impact to rare invertebrate species.
- Vascular Plant Species:
 - NIPSCO conducted a rare plant survey in Project areas near managed lands and high-quality communities. Biologists did not observe rare plants within the Project area. The Project is within an existing maintained transmission line right-of-way.

NIPSCO consulted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Fish and Wildlife, for avoidance and minimization recommendations for animal occurrences documented by the INHD. The IDNR response dated August 27, 2025, provided avoidance measures for the eastern massasauga. NIPSCO will follow avoidance measures as prescribed. For all other species, the IDNR does not expect negative impacts (**Attachment F**).



- Erosion Control (EC) Page
- Erosion Control (EC) Page with Impact
- USACE District Boundary
- County Boundary



**REYNOLDS - BURR OAK
 TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
 MARSHALL, PULASKI, STARKE, & WHITE
 COUNTIES, IN
 WO4000049098**

**IMPACTS TO DELINEATED
 FEATURES INDEX**

PAGE NO. 1 of 21	DATE: 11/18/2025	
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