

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC NOTICE NO 20260513 – INJ031089 – D
DATE OF NOTICE: May 13, 2026
DATE RESPONSE DUE: June 15, 2026

The Office of Water Quality proposes the following **DRAFT OPERATIONAL PERMIT**:

Minor Renewal:

Independence Hill Conservancy District Collection System, Permit INJ031089, LAKE COUNTY, 8015 Cleveland Place, Merrillville, IN. The permittee owns and operates a sanitary sewer collection system which (under normal operating conditions) conveys wastewater to the Merrillville Conservancy District collection system thence to the Gary Sanitary District wastewater treatment plant for ultimate treatment. This operational permit regulates the operations of the permittee's collection system. This permit contains reporting requirements if any overflows occur from the permittee's collection system. Permit Manager: Nicholas Eilerman at 317-232-8619 or neilerma@idem.in.gov. Posted online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notice/>.

PROCEDURES TO FILE A RESPONSE

You are hereby notified of the availability of a 30-day public comment period regarding the referenced draft permit, in accordance with IC 13-15-5-1. The application and draft permit documents are available for inspection at IDEM, Office of Water Quality, Indiana Government Center North - Room 1255, 100 N. Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46204 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, (copies 10¢ per page). The Draft Permit is posted online on the above-referenced IDEM public notice web page. A courtesy copy has also been sent via email to the local County Health Department. Please tell others whom you think would be interested in this matter. For more information about public participation including your rights & responsibilities, please see <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notice/>. You may want to consult our online Citizens' Guide to IDEM: <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>.

Comments: The proposed decision to issue a permit is tentative. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the draft permit. All comments must be delivered to IDEM or postmarked no later than the Response Due Date noted to be considered in the decision to issue a final permit. Deliver or mail all requests or comments to the attention of the Permit Manager at the above address. **To Request a Public Hearing:** Any person may request a public hearing. A written request must be submitted to the above address on or before the Response Due Date. The written request shall include: the name and address of the person making the request, the interest of the person making the request, persons represented by the person making the request, the reason for the request and the issues proposed for consideration at the hearing. The Department will determine whether to hold a public hearing based upon the comments and the rationale for the request. Public Notice of such a hearing will be posted on IDEM's web site for public notices and notification will also be sent out to those persons submitting comments and/or on the mailing list at least 30 days prior to the hearing.



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

100 N. Senate Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46204
(800) 451-6027 • (317) 232-8603 • Fax (317) 233-6647 • www.idem.IN.gov

Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

May 13, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

David Uzelac, Chairman of Board of Directors
8015 Cleveland Place
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Dear Mr. Uzelac:

Re: Draft Operational Permit No. INJ031089
Independence Hill Conservancy District
Collection System
Lake County

Your application and supporting documents have been reviewed and processed in accordance with rules adopted under 327 IAC 3. Enclosed is draft Operational Permit No. INJ031089 which applies to the Independence Hill Conservancy District Collection System.

Pursuant to IC 13-15-5-1, IDEM will publish the draft permit document online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notices/>. Additional information on public participation can be found in the "Citizens' Guide to IDEM", available at <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>.

Please review this document carefully and become familiar with the proposed terms and conditions. Comments concerning the draft permit should be submitted in accordance with the procedure outlined in the enclosed public notice form. Questions concerning this draft permit may be addressed to Nicholas Eilerma at 317/232-8619 or neilerma@idem.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Leigh Voss, Chief
Municipal NPDES Permits Section
Office of Water Quality

Enclosures

cc: Brian Smolar
Aravind Muzumdar, North-West Engineering Co., Inc.



STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE A COLLECTION SYSTEM UNDER 327 IAC 3-4

In accordance with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) permitting authority under IC 13-15 and 327 IAC 3-4, this operational permit is being issued to the

INDEPENDENCE HILL CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

hereinafter referred to as "the permittee." The permittee owns and/or operates a sanitary sewer collection system. The permittee's sanitary sewer system conveys wastewater to the Merrillville Conservancy District collection system at 73rd Avenue and Taft Street, Merrillville, Indiana, Lake County. The Merrillville Conservancy District collection system discharges to the Gary Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant for treatment.

Effective Date: _____.

Expiration Date: _____.

In order to receive authorization to discharge beyond the date of expiration, the permittee shall submit such information and application forms as are required by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The application shall be submitted to IDEM at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of this permit, unless a later date is allowed by the Commissioner in accordance with 327 IAC 5-3-2 and Part II.A.5 of this permit.

Issued on _____, for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Leigh Voss, Chief
Municipal NPDES Permits Section
Office of Water Quality

COLLECTION SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The collection system is comprised of 100% separate sanitary sewers by design with no overflow or bypass points.

The permittee has a 7.4 acre feet flow equalization basin which is used for storage when the collection system capacity is exceeded during wet weather events. The excess flow from the equalization basin then returns to the collection system.

The permittee's sanitary sewer system conveys wastewater to Merrillville Conservancy District (MCD) for treatment at the Gary Sanitary District's wastewater treatment facility.

PART I

A. SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW PROHIBITION AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

1. During the period beginning on the effective date of this permit and lasting until the expiration date, the permittee is required to monitor and report any discharges from the collection system, other than the intended discharge into the Merrillville Conservancy District Collection collection system, which transports the wastewater to the Gary Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Plant, in accordance with the conditions set forth in the permit.

Overflows in the sanitary sewer system or in a sanitary portion of a combined sewer system are expressly **prohibited** from discharging at any time. Should any release from the sanitary sewer system occur, the permittee is required to notify the Enforcement Section of the Office of Water Quality orally within twenty-four (24) hours and in writing within five (5) days of the event in accordance with the requirements in Part II.C.2.b of this permit. The correspondence shall include the duration and cause of discharge as well as the remedial action taken to eliminate it.

2. Minimum Narrative Limitations

At all times the discharge from any portion of the collection system shall not cause receiving waters:

- a. including waters within the mixing zone, to contain substances, materials, floating debris, oil, scum attributable to municipal, industrial, agricultural, and other land use practices, or other discharges that do any of the following:
 - (1) will settle to form putrescent or otherwise objectionable deposits;
 - (2) are in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or deleterious;
 - (3) produce color, visible oil sheen, odor, or other conditions in such degree as to create a nuisance;

- (4) are in amounts sufficient to be acutely toxic to, or to otherwise severely injure or kill aquatic life, other animals, plants, or humans;
 - (5) are in concentrations or combinations that will cause or contribute to the growth of aquatic plants or algae to such a degree as to create a nuisance, be unsightly, or otherwise impair the designated uses.
- b. outside the mixing zone, to contain substances in concentrations that on the basis of available scientific data are believed to be sufficient to injure, be chronically toxic to, or be carcinogenic, mutagenic, or teratogenic to humans, animals, aquatic life, or plants.

B. DEFINITIONS

- (1) The "Regional Administrator" is defined as the Region V Administrator, U.S. EPA, located at 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604.
- (2) The "Commissioner" is defined as the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, located at the following address:
100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251.

PART II

STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR OPERATIONAL NPDES PERMITS

A. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Authority

The terms and conditions of this permit are authorized under:

- a. 327 IAC 3-4-3, which requires an operational permit to contain such terms and conditions as the Commissioner determines necessary to assure that the water pollution control facility will be operated in such a manner that any pollutants released or threatened to be released by the facility into the environment will not cause or contribute to violations of applicable water quality standards, or otherwise cause a significant adverse impact on the environment or the public health.
- b. 327 IAC 3-4-4(b), which requires that the provisions of 327 IAC 5-3-2, 327 IAC 5-3-3, 327 IAC 5-3-6, 327 IAC 5-3-7, 327 IAC 5-3-14, 327 IAC 5-3-15, and 327 IAC 5-3-16 be applied to the issuance of an operational permit.
- c. 327 IAC 5-3-6 (applicable under 327 IAC 3-4-4(b) above), which requires that the provisions of 327 IAC 5-2-6, 327 IAC 5-2-8, 327 IAC 5-2-9, 327 IAC 5-2-10, 327 IAC 5-2-13, 327 IAC 5-2-14, and 327 IAC 5-2-15 be contained in the draft permit.
- d. the miscellaneous administrative provisions of 327 IAC 3-5.

2. Duty to Comply

The permittee shall comply with all terms and conditions of this permit in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(1) and all other requirements of 327 IAC 5-2-8. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act and IC 13 and is grounds for enforcement action or permit termination, revocation and reissuance, modification, or denial of a permit renewal application.

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of the permit.

3. Duty to Mitigate

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(3), the permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or correct any adverse impact to the environment resulting from noncompliance with this permit. During periods of noncompliance, the

permittee shall conduct such accelerated or additional monitoring for the affected parameters, as appropriate or as requested by IDEM, to determine the nature and impact of the noncompliance.

4. Duty to Provide Information

The permittee shall submit any information that the permittee knows or has reason to believe would constitute cause for modification or revocation and reissuance of the permit at the earliest time such information becomes available, such as plans for physical alterations or additions to the facility that:

- a. could significantly change the nature of, or increase the quantity of, pollutants discharged; or
- b. the Commissioner may request to evaluate whether such cause exists.

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-1-3(a)(5), the permittee must also provide any information reasonably requested by the Commissioner.

5. Duty to Reapply

If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must obtain and submit a renewal of this permit in accordance with 327 IAC 5-3-2(a)(2). It is the permittee's responsibility to obtain and submit the application. The application must be submitted at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit. This deadline may be extended if:

- a. permission is requested in writing before such deadline;
- b. IDEM grants permission to submit the application after the deadline; and
- c. the application is received no later than the permit expiration date.

6. Transfers

This permit is nontransferable to any person except in accordance with 327 IAC 3-5-2. This permit may be transferred to another person by the permittee, without modification or revocation and reissuance being required, if the following requirements of 327 IAC 5-2-6(c) are met:

- a. the current permittee notified the Commissioner at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer date.
- b. a written agreement containing a specific date of transfer of permit responsibility and coverage between the current permittee and the transferee (including acknowledgment that the existing permittee is liable for violations

up to that date, and the transferee is liable for violations from that date on) is submitted to the Commissioner.

- c. the transferee certifies in writing to the Commissioner their intent to operate the facility without making such material and substantial alterations or additions to the facility as would significantly change the nature or quantities of pollutants discharged and thus constitute cause for permit modification under 327 IAC 5-2-16(d). However, the Commissioner may allow a temporary transfer of the permit without permit modification for good cause, e.g., to enable the transferee to purge and empty the facility's treatment system prior to making alterations, despite the transferee's intent to make such material and substantial alterations or additions to the facility.
- d. the Commissioner, within thirty (30) days, does not notify the current permittee and the transferee of the intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit and to require that a new application be filed rather than agreeing to the transfer of the permit.

The Commissioner may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the permit to identify the new permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the Clean Water Act or state law.

7. Permit Actions

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-16(b) and 327 IAC 5-2-8(4), this permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Violation of any terms or conditions of this permit;
- b. Failure of the permittee to disclose fully all relevant facts or misrepresentation of any relevant facts in the application, or during the permit issuance process;
or
- c. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge controlled by the permittee (e.g., plant closure, termination of the discharge by connecting to a POTW, a change in state law or information indicating the discharge poses a substantial threat to human health or welfare).

Filing of either of the following items does not stay or suspend any permit condition: (1) a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or (2) submittal of information specified in Part II.A.3 of the permit including planned changes or anticipated noncompliance.

The permittee shall submit any information that the permittee knows or has reason to believe would constitute cause for modification or revocation and

reissuance of the permit at the earliest time such information becomes available, such as plans for physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility that:

1. could significantly change the nature of, or increase the quantity of, pollutants discharged; or
2. the commissioner may request to evaluate whether such cause exists.

8. Property Rights

Pursuant to 327 IAC 5-2-8(6) and 327 IAC 5-2-5(b), the issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to persons or private property or an invasion of rights, any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations. The issuance of the permit also does not preempt any duty to obtain any other state, or local assent required by law for the discharge or for the construction or operation of the facility from which a discharge is made.

9. Severability

In accordance with 327 IAC 1-1-3, the provisions of this permit are severable and, if any provision of this permit or the application of any provision of this permit to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect any other provisions or applications of the permit which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

10. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject to under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act.

11. State Laws

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to any applicable state law or regulation under authority preserved by Section 510 of the Clean Water Act or state law.

12. Penalties for Violation of Permit Conditions

Pursuant to IC 13-30-4, a person who violates any provision of this permit, the water pollution control laws; environmental management laws; or a rule or standard adopted by the Environmental Rules Board is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per day of any violation.

Pursuant to IC 13-30-5, a person who obstructs, delays, resists, prevents, or interferes with (1) the department; or (2) the department's personnel or designated agent in the performance of an inspection or investigation performed under IC 13-14-2-2 commits a class C infraction.

Pursuant to IC 13-30-10-1.5(e), a person who willfully or negligently violates any NPDES permit condition or filing requirement, or any applicable standards or limitations of IC 13-18-3-2.4, IC 13-18-4-5, IC 13-18-12, IC 13-18-14, IC 13-18-15, or IC 13-18-16, commits a Class A misdemeanor.

Pursuant to IC 13-30-10-1.5(i), an offense under IC 13-30-10-1.5(e) is a Level 4 felony if the person knowingly commits the offense or knows that the commission of the offense places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury. An offense under IC 13-30-10-1.5(e) is a Level 3 felony if it results in serious bodily injury to any person, and a Level 2 felony if it results in death to any person.

Pursuant to IC 13-30-10-1.5(g), a person who willfully or recklessly violates any applicable standards or limitations of IC 13-18-8 commits a Class B misdemeanor.

Pursuant to IC 13-30-10-1.5(h), a person who willfully or recklessly violates any applicable standards or limitations of IC 13-18-9, IC 13-18-10, or IC 13-18-10.5 commits a Class C misdemeanor.

Pursuant to IC 13-30-10-1, a person who knowingly or intentionally makes any false material statement, representation, or certification in any NPDES form, notice, or report commits a Class B misdemeanor.

13. Penalties for Tampering or Falsification

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(10), the permittee shall comply with monitoring, recording, and reporting requirements of this permit. The Clean Water Act, as well as IC 13-30-10-1, provides that any person who knowingly or intentionally (a) destroys, alters, conceals, or falsely certifies a record, (b) tampers with, falsifies, or renders inaccurate or inoperative a recording or monitoring device or method, including the data gathered from the device or method, or (c) makes a false material statement or representation in any label, manifest, record, report, or other document; all required to be maintained under the terms of a permit issued by the department commits a Class B misdemeanor.

14. Toxic Pollutants

If any applicable effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is established under Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for a toxic pollutant injurious to human health, and that standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation for such pollutant in this permit, this permit shall be modified or revoked and reissued to conform to the toxic effluent standard or prohibition in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(5). Effluent standards or prohibitions established under Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for toxic pollutants injurious to

human health are effective and must be complied with, if applicable to the permittee, within the time provided in the implementing regulations, even absent permit modification.

15. Construction Permit

Except in accordance with 327 IAC 3, the permittee shall not construct, install, or modify any water pollution treatment/control facility as defined in 327 IAC 3-1-2(24). Upon completion of any construction, the permittee must notify the Compliance Data Section of the Office of Water Quality in writing.

16. Inspection and Entry

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(8), the permittee shall allow the Commissioner, or an authorized representative, (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the Commissioner) upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

- a. Enter upon the permittee's premises where a point source, regulated facility, or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept pursuant to the conditions of this permit;
- b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
- c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment or methods (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required pursuant to this permit; and
- d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, any discharge of pollutants or internal wastestreams for the purposes of evaluating compliance with the permit or as otherwise authorized.

B. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Facility Operation, Maintenance and Quality Control

- a. In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(9), the permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and efficiently operate all facilities and systems (and related appurtenances) for collection that are:
 - (1) installed or used by the permittee; and
 - (2) necessary for achieving compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit.

- b. The permittee shall provide an adequate operating staff which is duly qualified to carry out the operation and maintenance to ensure compliance with the conditions of this permit.
- c. Maintenance of all waste collection and control facilities shall be conducted in a manner that complies with the overflow provisions set forth below.
- d. Any extensions to the sewer system must continue to be constructed on a separated basis. Plans and specifications, when required, for extension of the sanitary system must be submitted to the Facility Construction and Engineering Support Section, Office of Water Quality in accordance with 327 IAC 3-2-2. There shall also be an ongoing preventative maintenance program for the sanitary sewer system.
- e. Any overflow or release of sanitary wastewater from the collection system into the environment which is not specifically authorized by this permit is expressly prohibited (pursuant to IC 13-30-2-1, IC 13-18-4-5 and 327 IAC 5-2-2). This prohibition applies to sanitary sewer overflows, regardless of cause, including releases from cracked or broken pipes, manholes, basement backups or any other source or reason.

2. Removed Substances

Solids, sludges, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed from or resulting from treatment or control of wastewaters shall be disposed of in a manner such as to prevent any pollutant from such materials from entering waters of the State and to be in compliance with all Indiana statutes and regulations relative to liquid and/or solid waste disposal.

- a. Collected screenings, slurries, sludges, and other such pollutants shall be disposed of in accordance with provisions set forth in 329 IAC 10, 327 IAC 6.1, or another method approved by the Commissioner.
- b. The permittee shall comply with existing federal regulations governing solids disposal, and with applicable provisions of 40 CFR Part 503, the federal sludge disposal regulation standards.
- c. The permittee shall notify the Commissioner prior to any changes in sludge use or disposal practices.
- d. The permittee shall maintain records to demonstrate its compliance with the above disposal requirements.

3. Power Failures

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-10 and 327 IAC 5-2-8(14) in order to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and prohibitions of this permit, the permittee shall either:

- a. provide an alternative power source sufficient to operate facilities utilized by the permittee to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit, or
- b. shall halt, reduce or otherwise control all discharge in order to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit upon the reduction, loss, or failure of one or more of the primary sources of power to facilities utilized by the permittee to maintain compliance with the effluent limitations and conditions of this permit.

4. Unauthorized Discharge

Any overflow or release of sanitary wastewater from the wastewater treatment facilities or collection system that results in a discharge to waters of the state and is not specifically authorized by this permit is expressly prohibited. These discharges are subject to the reporting requirements in Part II.C.3 of this permit.

5. Sewer Mapping

The permittee shall develop and maintain an accurate sanitary and storm sewer map of their collection system. The map shall be updated to indicate any substantial changes to the collection system (new sewer line installation, inflow and infiltration repairs, etc.).

C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Planned Changes in Facility or Discharge

Pursuant to 327 IAC 5-2-8(11)(F) and 5-2-16(d) (as authorized under 327 IAC 3-4-3), the permittee shall give notice to the Commissioner as soon as possible of any planned alterations or additions to the collection system (which includes any point source) that could significantly change the nature of, or increase the quantity of, flows.

2. Incident Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to 327 IAC 5-2-8(11) and 327 IAC 5-1-3, the permittee shall orally report to the Commissioner information on the following incidents within 24 hours from the time permittee becomes aware of such occurrence. If the incident meets the emergency criteria of item b (Part II.C.3.b) or 327 IAC 2-6.1, then the report shall be made as soon as possible, but within two (2) hours of discovery.

However, under 327 IAC 2-6.1-3(1), when the constituents of the bypass are regulated by this permit, and death or acute injury or illness to animals or humans does not occur, the reporting requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1 do not apply.

- a. Any emergency incident which may pose a significant danger to human health or the environment. Reports under this item shall be made as soon as the permittee becomes aware of the incident by calling 317/233-7745 (888/233-7745 toll free in Indiana). This number should only be called when reporting these emergency events;
- b. Any release, including basement backups, from the sanitary sewer system (including satellite sewer systems operated or maintained by the permittee) not specifically authorized by this permit. Reporting of known releases from private laterals not caused by a problem in the sewer system owned or operated by the permittee is not required under Part II.C.3, however, documentation of such events must be maintained by the permittee and available for review by IDEM staff; or
- c. Any discharge from any outfall from which discharge is explicitly prohibited by this permit as well as any discharge from any other outfall or point not listed in this permit.

The permittee can make the oral reports by calling 317/232-8670 during regular business hours and asking for the Compliance Data Section, or by calling (317/233-7745) (888/233-7745 toll free in Indiana) during non-business hours. A written submission shall also be provided within five (5) days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain: a description of the event and its cause; the period of occurrence, including exact dates and times, and, if the event has not concluded, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, mitigate and eliminate the event and steps taken or planned to prevent its recurrence. The Commissioner may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours. Alternatively the permittee may submit a "Bypass Overflow/Incident Report" (State Form 48373) or a "Noncompliance Notification Report" (State Form 54215), whichever is appropriate, to IDEM at wwreports@idem.IN.gov. If a complete submittal is sent within 24 hours of the time that the permittee became aware of the occurrence, then that report will satisfy both the oral and written reporting requirements.

3. Other Noncompliance

Pursuant to 327 IAC 5-2-8(11)(D), the permittee shall report any instance of noncompliance not reported under the "Incident Reporting Requirements" in Part II.C.3 at the time the pertinent Discharge Monitoring Report is submitted. The written submission shall contain: a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and, if the

noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate and prevent the noncompliance.

4. Other Information

Pursuant to 327 IAC 5-2-8(11)(E), where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Commissioner, the permittee shall promptly submit such facts or corrected information to the Commissioner.

5. Signatory Requirements

Pursuant to 327 IAC 5-2-22 and 327 IAC 5-2-8(15):

a. All reports required by the permit and other information requested by the Commissioner shall be signed and certified by a person described below or by a duly authorized representative of that person:

(1) For a corporation: by a principal executive defined as a president, secretary, treasurer, any vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy-making functions for the corporation or the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than two hundred fifty (250) persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) (in second quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.

(2) For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or

(3) For a federal, state, or local governmental body or any agency or political subdivision thereof: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

b. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:

(1) The authorization is made in writing by a person described above.

(2) The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position.); and

(3) The authorization is submitted to the Commissioner.

- c. Electronic Signatures. If documents described in this section are submitted electronically by or on behalf of the NPDES-regulated facility, any person providing the electronic signature for such documents shall meet all relevant requirements of this section, and shall ensure that all of the relevant requirements of 40 CFR part 3 (including, in all cases, subpart D to part 3) (Cross-Media Electronic Reporting) and 40 CFR part 127 (NPDES Electronic Reporting Requirements) are met for that submission.
- d. Certification. Any person signing a document identified under paragraphs a and b of this section, shall make the following certification:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

6. Availability of Reports

Except for data determined to be confidential under 327 IAC 12.1, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Regional Administrator. As required by the Clean Water Act, permit applications, permits, and effluent data shall not be considered confidential.

7. Penalties for Falsification of Reports

IC 13-30 and 327 IAC 5-2-8(15) provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 180 days per violation, or by both.

8. Progress Reports

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(11)(A), reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this permit shall be submitted no later than fourteen (14) days following each schedule date.

9. Advance Notice for Planned Changes

In accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-8(11)(B), the permittee shall give advance notice to IDEM of any planned changes in the permitted facility, any activity, or other circumstances that the permittee has reason to believe may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

10. Electronic Reporting

IDEM is currently developing the technology and infrastructure necessary to allow compliance with the EPA Phase 2 e-reporting requirements per 40 CFR 127.16 and to allow electronic reporting of applications, notices, plans, reports, and other information not covered by the federal e-reporting regulations.

IDEM will notify the permittee when IDEM's e-reporting system is ready for use for one or more applications, notices, plans, reports, or other information. This IDEM notice will identify the specific applications, notices, plans, reports, or other information that are to be submitted electronically and the permittee will be required to use the IDEM electronic reporting system to submit the identified application(s), notice(s), plan(s), report(s), or other information.

D. ADDRESSES

1. Municipal NPDES Permits Section

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality – Rm 1255
Municipal NPDES Permits Section
100 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251

The following correspondence shall be sent to the Municipal NPDES Permits Section:

- a. Operational permit applications (new, renewal or modifications) with fee
- b. Preliminary Effluent Limits request letters
- c. Comment letters pertaining to draft operational permits
- d. Operational permit transfer of ownership requests
- e. Operational permit termination requests

- f. Notifications of substantial changes to a treatment facility, including new industrial sources
 - g. Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Operational Plans
 - h. CSO Long Term Control Plans (LTCP)
 - i. Stream Reach Characterization and Evaluation Reports (SRCER)
 - j. Streamlined Mercury Variance Annual Reports
2. Facility Construction and Engineering Support Section

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality – Rm 1255
Facility Construction and Engineering Support Section
100 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251

The following correspondence shall be sent to the Facility Construction and Engineering Support Section:

- a. Construction permit applications with fee

3. Compliance Data Section

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality – Rm 1255
Compliance Data Section
100 N. Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251

The following correspondence shall be sent to the Compliance Data Section:

- a. Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs)
- b. Monthly Reports of Operation (MROs)
- c. Monthly Monitoring Reports (MMRs)
- d. CSO MROs
- e. Gauging station and flow meter calibration documentation
- f. Compliance schedule progress reports
- g. Completion of Construction notifications

- h. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing reports
- i. Notification of two (2) consecutive failed WETTs and the intent to begin implementation of a TRE
- j. Notification of initiation of a TRE
- k. TRE plans and progress reports
- l. TRE final report
- m. Bypass/Overflow Reports
- n. Anticipated Bypass/Overflow Reports



**Operational Permit
Briefing Memo for
Independence Hill Conservancy District Sewer Collection
System
Draft: April 2026
Final: TBD**

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-8603
Toll Free (800) 451-6027
www.idem.IN.gov

Permittee:	Independence Hill Conservancy District David Uzelac, Chairman of Board of Directors 8015 Cleveland Place Merrillville, Indiana 46410 dmichaelu@yahoo.com , 219/777-0518
Existing Permit Information:	Permit Number: INJ031089 Expiration Date: December 31, 2026
Facility Contact:	Brian Smolar bsmolar@ihcd-in.com , 219/712-8062
Facility Location:	8015 Cleveland Place Merrillville, Indiana 46410 Lake County
Receiving Stream:	Merrillville Conservancy District to Gary Sanitary District
GLI/Non-GLI:	Non-GLI
Proposed Permit Action:	Renewal
Date Application Received:	April 8, 2026
Facility Category	Operational Permit under 327 IAC 3-4
Permit Writer:	Nicholas Eilerman, Sr. Environmental Manager neilerma@idem.in.gov , 317/232-8619

Operational Permit No. INJ031089

Background

This is the proposed renewal of the operational permit for the Independence Hill Conservancy sanitary sewer collection system which was issued on April 15, 2021 and has an expiration date of December 31, 2026. The permittee submitted an application for renewal which was received on April 8, 2026.

The permittee has a 7.4 acre feet flow equalization basin which is used for storage when the collection system capacity is exceeded during wet weather events. The excess flow from the equalization basin then returns to the collection system.

The permittee's sanitary sewer system conveys wastewater to Merrillville Conservancy District (MCD) for treatment at the Gary Sanitary District's wastewater treatment facility.

Permit Revision & Construction History

There were no modifications to the permit nor construction permits issued since the facility's aforementioned operational permit renewal.

Collection System

The collection system is comprised of 100% separate sanitary sewers by design with no overflow or bypass points.

Operational Permit Program

Operational permits are regulated by the provisions of 327 IAC 3-4. 327 IAC 3-4-3 provides the general regulatory authority under which IDEM administers the operational permit program. This rule states that the operational permit must contain the terms and conditions necessary to assure that the water pollution control facility will be operated in such a manner that any pollutants released or threatened to be released by the facility into the environment will not cause or contribute to violations of applicable water quality standards, or otherwise cause a significant adverse impact on the environment or the public health.

More specifically, 327 IAC 3-4-4(b) requires that the procedures for the issuance of NPDES permits under 327 IAC 5-3-2, 327 IAC 5-3-3, 327 IAC 5-3-6, 327 IAC 5-3-7, 327 IAC 5-3-14, 327 IAC 5-3-15, and 327 IAC 5-3-16, apply to the issuance of the operational permit. These rules address the application requirements, permit modifications, tentative permit decisions, briefing memos, permit issuance and effective dates, response to comment procedures, and judicial reviews applicable to the operational permit. 327 IAC 5-3-6 (applicable under 327 IAC 3-4-4(b) above) requires that the basic NPDES requirements addressed in 327 IAC 5-2-6, 327 IAC 5-2-8, 327 IAC 5-2-9, 327 IAC 5-2-10, 327 IAC 5-2-13, 327 IAC 5-2-14, and 327 IAC 5-2-15 be incorporated in the operational permit. Finally, 327 IAC 3-5 provides the regulatory authority specific to

operational permits for various miscellaneous administrative provisions including enforcement, penalties and fees.

The operational permit includes NPDES regulatory citations where applicable as described above. In some instances, an NPDES regulation not directly applicable to the operational permit has been cited as applicable under the general regulatory authority of 327 IAC 3-4-3.

Receiving Stream

The Independence Hill Conservancy District sanitary sewer system conveys wastewater to the Merrillville Conservancy District (MCD) collection system at 73rd Avenue and Taft Street and on Taft Street approximately 0.74 miles north of 73rd Avenue to a MCD manhole south of the Innsbrook Country Club. The Merrillville Conservancy District collection system discharges to the Gary Sanitary District's wastewater treatment plant for treatment.

Compliance History

The permittee has no enforcement actions at the time of this permit preparation.

Reopening Clauses

As authorized under 327 IAC 3-4-3, the operational permit includes a reopening clause allowing the permit to be modified or, alternately, revoked and reissued, to reflect any of the causes for modification in 327 IAC 5-2-16.

Permit Term

A five-year term for operational permit No. INJ031089 is proposed.

Permit Processing/Public Comment

Pursuant to IC 13-15-5-1, IDEM will publish the draft permit document online at <https://www.in.gov/idem/public-notices/>. Additional information on public participation can be found in the "Citizens' Guide to IDEM", available at <https://www.in.gov/idem/resources/citizens-guide-to-idem/>. A 30-day comment period is available to solicit input from interested parties, including the public.