

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: May 29, 2013
Permit No. MI0055735
Gerald R Ford Intl Airport-GR

The Department of Environmental Quality (Department) proposes to modify a discharge permit issued to: the Kent County Department of Aeronautics for the Gerald R. Ford International Airport located at 5500 44th Street, SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport discharges storm water associated with industrial activities. The industrial activities include aircraft and pavement deicing, which are safety requirements regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration for wintertime operations. The applicant discharges an unspecified amount of storm water and intercepted sub-surface flow through Outfalls 001 and 004 to unnamed tributaries to the Thornapple River, in the SW1/4, SE1/4, Section 17, Town 6 N, Range 10 W, Kent County. The applicant discharges an unspecified amount of storm water through Outfall 007 to an unnamed tributary to Plaster Creek, in the SE1/4, SE1/4, Section 21, Town 6 N, Range 10 W, Kent County. The applicant proposes to discharge an unspecified amount of treated storm water through Outfall 011 to the Thornapple River, in the SW1/4, SW1/4, Section 22, Town 6 N, Range 10 W, Kent County.

The draft permit includes the following modifications to the previously-issued permit: The discharge of storm water from Outfall 001 (unnamed tributary to Thornapple River) will be redirected to a new outfall structure identified as Outfall 011 (Thornapple River). The effluent limitations for Outfall 011 will not become effective until the construction of Outfall 011 is completed. Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements for Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD₅), Ammonia Nitrogen, and Dissolved Oxygen have been added to Outfalls 004 and 011. Monitoring requirements for CBOD₅, Ammonia Nitrogen, and Dissolved Oxygen have been added to Outfall 007. Monitoring requirements for Chemical Oxygen Demand have been replaced with CBOD₅. Outfall 001 will be retained after the initiation of Outfall 011. Due to the continued discharge of storm water and intercepted sub-surface flow through Outfall 001 (after the completion of Outfall 011), the discharge of Anti-icing/De-icing Fluids at Outfall 001 will be prohibited. The permit also includes the addition of a Reopener Clause and a permit condition addressing Nuisance Odor Conditions. The Nuisance Biofilm Elimination and Prevention Program has been revised to address potential concerns related to the transfer of storm water associated with industrial activities from Outfall 001 to Outfall 011.

The permitted discharge shall not lower the existing water quality of the receiving water below State Water Quality Standards. In accordance with Rule 323.1098, the applicant submitted an Antidegradation Demonstration. The proposed discharge at Outfall 011 is considered a new site-specific discharge to the Thornapple River and therefore is subject to the requirements of Antidegradation. The proposed discharge at Outfall 011 is currently authorized via Outfall 001 into an unnamed tributary to the Thornapple River. As part of the modification, the permittee has indicated that they will be installing a storm water detention basin and treatment area through which the storm water will pass prior to being discharged to the Thornapple River. Currently the airport provides no treatment for the discharge to Outfall 001. The proposed discharge to Outfall 011 will be of better quality than what is currently authorized to be discharged to the same watershed. The permit modification request was initiated by the permittee to comply with an existing permit requirement to eliminate the permittee's contribution to the nuisance biofilms in the unnamed tributary to the Thornapple River. The Department proposes that the applicant's Antidegradation Demonstration, based on information required by

Subrule (4) of R323.1098, shows that lowering of water quality is necessary to support the identified important social and economic development in the area. This is solely for purposes of satisfying state water quality regulations and is not intended to supplant local requirements, including land use or zoning laws. It is not, and should not be construed as, a finding by the Department that the proposed development meets local requirements or ordinances. In addition to the proposed permit, the Department is proposing to accept the Antidegradation Demonstration as adequate.

Comments or objections to the draft permit and proposed decision regarding the Antidegradation Demonstration received by June 28, 2013, will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit. Persons desiring information regarding the draft permit, Antidegradation Demonstration, procedures for commenting, or requesting a hearing should contact Sean Syts, Permits Section, Water Resources Division, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909, telephone: 517-335-4123, e-mail: sytss@michigan.gov.

Copies of the permit application, Public Notice, Antidegradation Demonstration, and draft permit may be obtained via the Internet (<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/owis> - click on 'Permits on Public Notice') or at the Water Resources Division Grand Rapids District Office located at the State Office Building, Fifth Floor, 350 Ottawa, NW, Unit 10, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2341, telephone: 616-356-0500.