

# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

February 19, 1999

## Construction of Bridges on Public Bodies of Water

County Engineers/Superintendent of Highways #99-03  
Municipal Engineers/Director of Public Works  
Consulting Engineers

Certain waterways within the State of Illinois are designated to be "Public Bodies of Water" and construction activities associated with projects for bridges spanning public waters must be approved by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Office of Water Resources (OWR). A listing of waterways that are designated as "Public Bodies of Waters" is included with Statewide Permit No. 12, which was distributed with Circular Letter #99-2.

Permanent construction features associated with a proposed bridge are approved by the OWR when a construction permit is obtained during the preliminary design phase of a project. However, the nature and extent of the temporary construction features that a contractor will utilize during the implementation phase cannot always be identified during the design phase of the project and the contractor must submit information to IDNR to describe temporary construction activities and to obtain a construction permit. To ensure that contractors are aware of their responsibility to contact IDNR to obtain a construction permit for any temporary features placed within public waters, the following General Note should be included on the General Plan and Elevation sheet for projects involving "Public Bodies of Water":

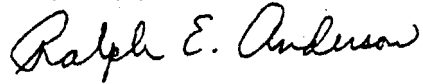
"The Contractor shall obtain a construction permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Office of Water Resources for any temporary construction activity placed in the water except cofferdams. This shall include the placement of material for run-arounds, causeways, etc. Any permit application by the contractor shall refer to the IDNR permit number \_\_\_\_\_ which was issued for the permanent construction."

In addition to the General Note, the designation "**PUBLIC WATERS**" should be included in the title block of the General Plan and Elevation sheet of the design plans.

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To expedite the approval of permits for temporary construction activities during the implementation phase of a project, the information submitted during the preliminary design phase of a project should include information on potential temporary constructions activities whenever possible. If you have any questions, please contact John Morris at 217/782-5928 or Tom Cartmel at 217/782-5929.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph E. Anderson".

Ralph E. Anderson  
Engineer of Bridges and Structures

JAM/bb16333