**Rebuild Illinois**

**Environmental Review Process**

Some of the environmental record review (ERR) forms referenced below that are required for your Rebuild Illinois grant that will be managed by the Office of Community Development (OCD) of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) are available on the DCEO OCD website

under the “Environmental Materials” tab (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/communitydevelopment/environmentalmaterials.html>). Other forms required by one of the four (4) State environmental review agencies noted below that are not available on the DCEO OCD “Environmental Materials” web page are available for completion on *that* State agency’s website.

**Air Quality**

Please obtain an IEPA clearance letter (which is different from any required IEPA construction permits for your project) stating IEPA has no objection to your proposed Rebuild Illinois project. To initiate the IEPA environmental clearance process, please complete the “Illinois EPA Environmental Review Project Information” form located on the DCEO OCD “Environmental Materials” website under “IEPA Env Review Info Form as of 08172017”, and submit the completed form to Ms. Sarah Seelbach of IEPA’s Office of the Director (217-782-0547; Sarah.Seelbach@Illinois.gov) at the address listed on the form. While stating IEPA has no objections to the proposed project, its clearance letter may also list mandatory or suggested actions the Grantee will need to take during the project. Please make sure its mandates and/or suggestions are followed before and during construction.

**Endangered Species and Wetlands Protection**

The Grantee must submit its Rebuild Illinois and leverage-funded project site(s) and activities on the Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) (<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/programs/EcoCAT/Pages/default.aspx>) of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for compliance with the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act (520 ILCS 10/11(b)) and the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989 (20 ILCS 830). There is no fee for using EcoCAT to research grant projects issued by State of Illinois agencies such as Rebuild Illinois grants issued by DCEO. You will list “State of Illinois DCEO” as the funding agency and the DCEO OCD Environmental Review Officer’s (ERO) contact information if prompted on EcoCAT.

**Endangered Species**:

IDNR EcoCAT Reviews for Endangered Species must be released from Consultation, and not just “for information only”. They must include copies of both the initial EcoCAT sheet and any separate IDNR release letter for *each* affected IDNR “Project Number” covering your project’s area(s). If IDNR requires a mitigation for Endangered Species before they’ll release, then that must be completed before you submit the project’s entire completed ERR to DCEO for review. If the required mitigation is an Incidental Take Authorization (ITA), then the ITA must be fully approved by IDNR, which can take several months and may cost thousands of dollars. The costs of such mitigations may eventually be paid out of Rebuild Illinois or “Other”-funded construction funds, as they are a condition of construction, but the Grantee will have to pay them with their own funds and wait for reimbursement from Grant or “Other” funds once the environmental release is in place and the Grant Agreement is executed.

**Wetlands Protection**:

(1) IDNR EcoCAT Reviews for Wetlands must be released from Consultation, and not just “for information only”. They must include copies of both the EcoCAT sheet and any separate IDNR release letter for *each* affected IDNR “Project Number” covering your project’s area(s). If IDNR requires a mitigation for wetlands before they’ll release, then that must be completed before submitting the project’s entire completed ERR to DCEO for review. The costs of such mitigations may eventually be paid out of Grant or “Other”-funded construction costs, as they are a condition of construction, but the Grantee will have to pay them with their own funds and wait for reimbursement from Grant or “Other” funds once the environmental release is in place and the Grant Agreement is executed. In addition, if IDNR requires formal Wetlands mitigation before release from Consultation, then the Grantee will need to do an 8-step Wetlands review (incl. both required publications followed by the two respective local public comment periods). Information on conducting an 8-step Wetlands Review, and templates for the Early and Final Wetlands Notice templates are available on the DCEO OCD “Environmental Materials” website (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/communitydevelopment/environmentalmaterials.html>). Note: A required 8-step Wetlands review may be combined with a required 8-step Flood Plain review (if applicable).

(2) Since DCEO OCD has adopted Federal Wetlands Protection standards for its Rebuild Illinois grants, the Grantee must also research its project’s potential impact on Federally-listed Wetlands areas by researching the project’s site(s) on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USF&WS) “Wetlands Mapper” (<https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>), printing the search results, marking the project’s site(s) on it, and including it in the completed ERR submitted to the DCEO OCD ERO. If the project’s construction activity touches, crosses, alters, and/or goes under (or over) wetlands listed on the “Wetlands Mapper” search results, and the project’s activities meet the US Executive Order 11990 definition of “New Construction” (i.e., “draining, dredging, channelizing, filling, diking, impounding and related activities”) then an 8-step Wetlands review (incl. both required publications followed by the two respective local public comment periods) must be performed. Notice templates are available on the DCEO OCD “Environmental Materials” website (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/communitydevelopment/environmentalmaterials.html>). Note: A required 8-step Wetlands review may be combined with a required 8-step Flood Plain review (if applicable). Only one 8-step Wetlands review would be required if both IDNR requires wetlands mitigation and USF&WS “Wetlands Mapper” shows Federally listed wetlands in a project construction site.

**Farmland Preservation**

The Rebuild Illinois project’s ERR must include a copy of your project’s Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) clearance letter reflecting clearance under the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act (505 ILCS 75/1 et seq.). The IDOA clearance letter may also reference compliance with the Federal Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201 et seq.), which is acceptable, but not a requirement of State-funded Rebuild Illinois grants.

The IDOA review request form is located on the DCEO OCD “Environmental Materials” website under “IDOA DCEO Agricultural Site Review Information Form” If questions for IDOA, please call or e-mail either Mr. Jeff Evers @ 217-785-5594 (jeff.evers@illinois.gov) or Mr. John Lohse @ 217-785-4389 (john.lohse@illinois.gov).

**Floodplain Management**

Even though a FEMA FIRMette issued by FEMA’s Map Service Center (MSC) (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>) was provided in the Grantee’s original Rebuild Illinois grant application, a clean copy with all grant and other-funded project location(s) marked must be included in the Grant’s entire completed ERR submitted to the DCEO OCD ERO.

(1) The FEMA FIRMette must be obtained from FEMA’s MSC website (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>) and contain FEMA’s seal (usually around the margins) as confirmation to its authenticity; (2) it must be the most current version available for the project’s location(s) (i.e., from the current multi-color “Dynamic” FIRMette down to the old “paper” black-and-white version (dependent on what flood insurance rate mapping the local geographic community has provided to FEMA over the years); (3) if the relevant FEMA FIRMette is the “Dynamic” version or an older version that is available on FEMA’s site in color, it must be provided to DCEO in color, with the project location(s) clearly marked (please also include a zoomed-in view if any project location is close to, but not in, a nearby 100-year unprotected Flood Plain (FP) and/or a prohibited Floodway (FW). If your project location(s) is/are currently FEMA FIRMette “unmapped” or show up only on the old “paper” black-and-white version, then you must still mark the approx. project location(s) on the unmapped or “paper” version; (4) If the FIRMette shows any portion of the project’s site(s) touching, crossing or in a 100-year unprotected FP, then please also complete and include in the project’s ERR an 8-step Flood Plain Review (incl. both required publications followed by the two respective local public comment periods). Information on conducting an 8-step Flood Plain Review, and templates for the Early and Final Flood Plain Notices are available on the DCEO OCD “Environmental Materials” website (<https://dceo.illinois.gov/communitydevelopment/environmentalmaterials.html>). Note: A required 8-step Flood Plain review may be combined with a required 8-step Wetlands review (if applicable); and (5) **If the FIRMette shows any portion of the project’s site(s) touching, crossing or in** **a prohibited Floodway, then please consult the DCEO CDBG ERO immediately to determine whether the Rebuild Illinois project and funding can be modified out of the Floodway, or will be cancelled if the proposed use in a Floodway is not a functionally dependent use**.

**Historic Preservation**

The Grantee must obtain a letter citing its Rebuild Illinois project’s “Section 707” clearance under the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3420) issued by Illinois’ State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the Historic Preservation Division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The clearance letter would also be acceptable if Illinois’ SHPO issued it as a Federal release under “Section 106” of the National Historic Preservation Act. Either way, it must have an issue date within two years of the date it is submitted to the DCEO OCD Environmental Review Officer (ERO) as part of the project’s completed ERR.

SHPO historic preservation review and submission information is available on their website at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric/Preserve/Pages/Resource-Protection.aspx>.

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If you have questions related to preparation of your grant’s Rebuild Illinois Environmental Record Review (ERR), please direct them to: Kirk Kumerow, Office of Community Development Environmental Review Officer, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO); 217-558-4106; CEO.ERO@illinois.gov. To be considered as a complete Rebuild Illinois ERR, it must include:

(a) copies of the Project Summary and Project Location Map(s) from the original Rebuild Illinois grant application;

(b) all four (4) of the State environmental review agency clearances noted above (i.e., IEPA, IDNR EcoCAT, IDOA, and SHPO);

(c) copies of the USF&WS Wetlands Mapper with every project location clearly marked:

(d) copies of the most current FEMA FIRMette with every project location clearly marked; and

(e) if applicable, a copy of the completed 8-step Flood Plain and/or Wetlands Review, including full copies of both required publications and the publisher’s certification for each publication.