

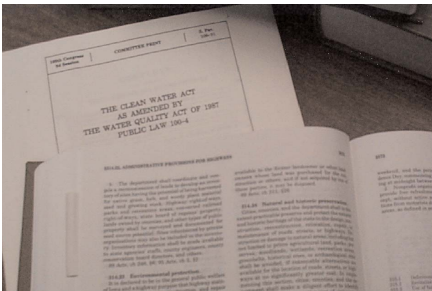
SCOPE OF PROJECT

Development of the new U.S. Highway 218 four-lane bypass in Mount Pleasant, Iowa required the approval of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as required by Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Securing 404 approval required delineation of all wetlands and jurisdictional waters in the project corridor, identifying alternatives to regulated fills, documenting efforts to avoid and minimize fills, and providing a compensatory mitigation concept for unavoidable impacts. Additionally, close communication with the regulatory agencies throughout the permit process would be critical to ensure project approval.



IMPLEMENTATION

The project was addressed by compiling all required documentation to present a complete Section 404 application to the Army Corps and IDNR. Components included a joint application form, project location information and design plans, wetland delineations, cultural resources survey clearance, protected species data, compensatory mitigation plan, agency correspondence, and adjacent landowner contact information.



After collecting and assembling the required application components and prior to submittal, a pre-application conference was held with representatives of the Army Corps and IDNR to ensure that the application was complete and regulatory processing could commence without delay.



The added communication ensured timely review and, ultimately, approval of the proposed highway project.

SERVICES

Primary capabilities used in this project included the ability to locate and interpret project and natural resource data; organizational and presentation skills to communicate the information to the regulatory agencies; continued communication through a well-established network of regulators.

TIMELINE

Project Start Date: October 1998
Project Completed: June 1999