

Thank you for your comment, Cheryl Mendoza.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRISANS50020.

Comment Date: February 14, 2012 15:08:07PM

GLMRISANS

Comment ID: GLMRISANS50020

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold my personal information from the website and NEPA documents

Attachment: Control Paper comments 2 14 12.pdf

Comment Submitted:

February 14, 2012

Mr. Dave Wethington, GLMRIS Project Manager
GLMRIS ANS Control Comments
111 N. Canal, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Wethington,

I am writing today to urge the Army Corps of Engineers to focus their study efforts on the only option identified in the “Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Control Paper” that would prevent the transfer of Asian carp and other aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. Out of the 27 controls being studied by the Corps, only hydrological separation would accomplish this and therefore is the only option authorized for study by Congress. The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 authorized:

“The Secretary (of the Army), in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, local and nongovernmental entities, shall conduct, at Federal expense, **a feasibility study of the range of options and technologies available to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance** species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins through the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and other pathways.”

By adding additional study objectives not authorized by Congress that step away from prevention – or in other words, studying how to slow down the eventual instead of stopping the threat – it appears the Corps is making the decision that prevention will not be possible before that options has been fully assessed. Our best chance to protect the Great Lakes is for GLMRIS to focus in on what Congress authorized –prevention.

As you know, a study was recently released that lays out three options for achieving this **permanent solution** to stop the Asian carp and other aquatic nuisance species from invading our Great Lakes in the Chicago area. Released by the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, the report says separating the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins to prevent the spread of Asian carp and other invasive species is not only possible, but a natural step toward much-needed action to improve Chicago’s water infrastructure. Utilizing these findings, we urge you to use further GLMRIS study funds and efforts on moving forward how to implement hydrological separation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Freshwater Future is the only watershed-wide organization dedicated solely to supporting the needs of community-based groups and advocates working to protect and restore Great Lakes land and water resources. We have provided over \$1.5 million in grants, locally targeted resources, and one-on-one technical help that has supported over 750 on-the-ground projects to restore and protect Great Lakes waters. On an annual basis, Freshwater Future gives 40-50 small grants to community-based groups and maintains a network of 8,000 community groups and individuals working to protect our Lakes. If you should have any questions, feel free to contact me at 231-571-5001.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Mendoza". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Mendoza, Associate Director
Freshwater Future