

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

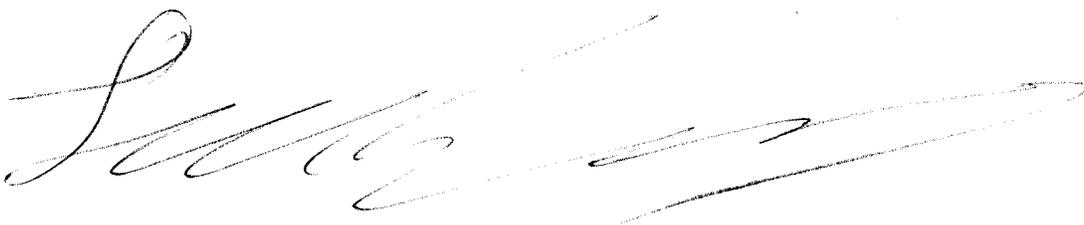
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer  
GLMRIS Scoping  
111 N. Canal, Suite 600,  
Chicago, IL 60606.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was mandated to study ways to “prevent” invasive species movement between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. The Corps has decided to spend precious time and resources to also study ways to “reduce the risk,” of invasive species movement. This was not authorized by Congress nor is it a credible strategy that will protect both basins from invasive species introduction. This initiative to “reduce the risk” is outside of the scope of the mandated study; only options that will “prevent” invasive species movement, and stop the Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes basin, should be studied.

The GLMRIS study is a prevention study and its results should be to prevent Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes. The study timeline and strategy must be structured so a solution is provided *prior to the establishment* of breeding populations of Asian carp in the Chicago Waterway System and Great Lakes basin. The study is predicted to be complete in mid-2015. Due to this time sensitive issue, condensing the timeline and producing final results for the Chicago portion of GLMRIS within 18 months rather than four years is completely necessary.

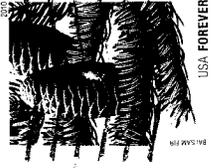
In order to accomplish an 18 month study all available resources must be used. At least two comprehensive reports describing the likely impacts of Asian carp on the Great Lakes have already been written, one from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and one from Fisheries and Oceans Canada; In addition, Fisheries and Oceans Canada recently commenced a bi-national effort to create an updated risk assessment for Asian carp.

The Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLC/GLSLCI) are conducting a study on the water management and transportation alternatives available after a physical separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Other organizations, such as the Alliance for the Great Lakes and the Natural Resources Defense Council, have also described alternatives for achieving prevention through a physical separation. The Corps should incorporate the findings of these projects to hasten its own analysis and strongly consider physical separation of the two basins. An economic impact analysis, which will be conducted by a private engineering and transportation team, should be completed by January 2012. The Corps should use this economic analysis for identifying the best way to achieve physical separation on the Chicago Waterway System in order to save precious time.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucas Evans', is written across the page.

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