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January 31, 2012

GLMRIS ANS Control Comments  
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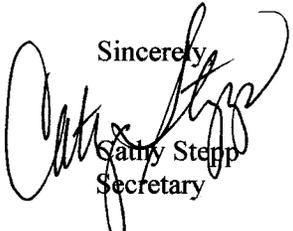
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the U.S ACOE's, Aquatic Nuisance Species Control Paper released on December 21, 2011. My staff has completed a review and offers these comments for your consideration.

The news release specifically asked if the list of ANS Controls (appendix B) is complete. Our review found the list of controls to be complete and accurate. No additional controls are suggested at this time. Appendix C was listed in the report but was not part of the report that was printable from the website, perhaps this was just an oversight.

The Department would also like to take this opportunity to reemphasize the need to permanently and expeditiously separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins within the Chicago Area Waterway System. Hydrologic separation is one of three ANS Controls identified in the report to be effective against all "Targeted Organisms of Concern – CAWS". Selectively targeting the "ANS of Concern – CAWS" should not be a consideration in selecting an ANS Control – CAWS since this system is completely artificial and does not provide suitable habitat for feeding, rearing, or spawning for native species. This system is currently acting as an open conduit to ANS between the two basins and Wisconsin, states adjacent to the Mississippi River and its tributaries, other Great Lake states and Canada are at risk. This connection must be eliminated.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is appreciative of the opportunity to provide comments on this report but feels compelled to reemphasize the need to create a hydrological separation in the CAWS and to do it now.

Sincerely,

  
Cathy Stepp  
Secretary

cc. Matt Moroney, Deputy Secretary  
Ken Johnson, Division Administrator  
Cynthia Hirsch, DOJ  
Susan Sylvester, Bureau Director  
Jeff Bode, Section Chief  
Steve Galarneau, Office of Great Lakes  
Bob Wakeman, AIS Coordinator