



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

J  
3/21/11

MAR 18 2011

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

E-19J

Susanne J. Davis, P.E.  
Chief, Planning Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chicago District  
111 North Canal Street, Suite 600  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-7206

Re: Scoping Comments – Feasibility Study for the Great Lakes and Mississippi River  
Interbasin Study (GLMRIS)

Dear Ms. Davis:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received the Army Corps of Engineers' (ACE) November 12, 2010 announcement of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for GLMRIS. ACE, in collaboration with federal and state agencies, including USEPA, will explore options and techniques that could be applied to prevent or reduce risk of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) transfer between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes Basins via aquatic pathways, as well as the effects such controls may have on current uses of the pathways between the basins. The evaluation of ANS risk from the Mississippi River Basin should include key sub-basins, such as the Ohio River and Missouri River sub-basins. ANS risk from the Hudson River Basin should also be considered.

EPA will continue to cooperate fully with ACE and other partner agencies in development of this EIS. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206 or via e-mail at [kowal.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:kowal.kathleen@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake  
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section  
Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance