

Thank you for your comment, Matthew Davis.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50181.

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GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50181

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Comment Submitted:

The current timeline for the Corps study is too long, with recommendations not expected for the Chicago portion until 2015. The Corps needs to condense the timeline for its study and produce final results for the Chicago portion of the feasibility study within 18 months. This timeline can be condensed by incorporating results from existing studies rather than repeating work that has already been done on risk assessment, wastewater and transportation, and economic analysis by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative.

This study is intended to prevent invasive species, including Asian carp, from moving between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. It is not acceptable to wait until Asian carp are already present in the Great Lakes before considering physical separation of the two basins. Evidence shows Asian carp already are present above the electric barriers. Clearly, the electric barriers are not enough to prevent aquatic invasive species from moving between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes. Therefore, permanent hydrologic separation between the Mississippi River and the Great Lakes is needed.

Physical separation must include mitigation to those with long- or short-term economic losses, if those losses can be verified.