United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Rock Island Field Office (ES)
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Rock Island, Illinois 61201

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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May 17, 1995

Colonel Charles S. Cox
District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District
Rock Island
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Colonel Cox:

We have reviewed the February 1995 Content Analysis Report for the public meetings held in November 1994 for the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study. The report classified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "qualified supporters."

While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not opposed to navigation nor the study, we are not supporters of the study. It is misleading to include the Service as "qualified supporters" even with the explanation that concerns were expressed. We are concerned about the long term systemic environmental impacts that have yet to be addressed within this study. A better classification would be "Neutral, with Environmental Concerns."

I am aware that this report is final, however, I ask that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service not be portrayed as "qualified supporters" of this study.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Nelson
Field Supervisor

cc: RO (MacLean)
NECC (Dieffenbach)
NECC (Stucky)
NECC (Benjamin)
NECC (Bertrand)
NECC (Szcodronski)
NECC (Knott)

SE:sjg