

REPLY TO:

- 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501
(202) 224-3744
TTY: (202) 224-4479
e-mail: chuck_grassley@grassley.senate.gov
- 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2140
(515) 284-4890
- 206 FEDERAL BUILDING
101 1ST STREET SE.
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-1227
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

December 24, 2002

REPLY TO:

- 103 FEDERAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- 116 FEDERAL BUILDING
131 E. 4TH STREET
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1513
(563) 322-4331
- 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

Colonel William J. Bayles
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

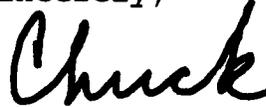
Dear Colonel Bayles:

Enclosed please find copies of correspondence from a number of my constituents who have expressed concern about the proposed lease to the Muslim Youth Camps of America.

I would appreciate any information or updates you could send me regarding this manner. Please direct your response to my Cedar Rapids office.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

CEG/pn
Enclosure

RANKING,
FINANCE

Committee Assignments:

BUDGET
JUDICIARY

CO-CHAIRMAN,
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL CAUCUS

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

971422

Imported through Webrespond

Report Date: 12/3/2002

Assigned Staff: adamf
Address To: General
Name: Mr. Cary Beatty
Address: 1975 Blue Heron Road
North Liberty IA 52317 USA
Email Address: beatty@infi.net
Home Phone: (319) 626-6077

Work Phone: Fax:
Salutation: Dear Mr. Beatty:
Interest Code: TE-01
Classification: Category 1:
Ref. Number: Category 2:
Message: Category 3:

Date Received: 11/27/2002 7:56:00 AM

IG finds bias in Corps of Engineers study by Gary Sheftick WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 7, 2000) - An Army Inspector General report released this week found three Corps of Engineers officials were involved in manipulating data to justify a \$1 billion lock expansion project on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. _____ Corps of Engineers falsified river study, whistle-blower says Monday, February 14, 2000 By MIKE BRANOM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DES MOINES, Iowa -- The Army Corps of Engineers distorted the economic effect of a \$1 billion river project so it would win congressional approval, an economist says in an affidavit. _____ Posted on Wed, Nov. 13, 2002 Army Corps employee awarded for whistle blowing; corps quiets him LIBBY QUAIN Associated Press WASHINGTON - An Army Corps of Engineers whistle-blower honored Wednesday for his role in stalling a \$1 billion river construction project was warned by the corps not to talk about any past, present or future projects. Dear Senator Grassley: Despite every evidence presented by residents of Johnson County, the Corps of Engineers has published a report saying that construction of an enormous permanent convention center (Muslim Youth Camps of America) on 106 acres of woodland would have no environmental impact. This is governmental hubris at its most absurd. The study, conducted by Zambrana and Associates of St. Louis, pays no heed to the hundreds of trees slated for removal and the non-existent sewage disposal system on that property. Is it just coincidence that the CEO of Zambrana is a former Corps employee? I don't mean to impugn the integrity of the Corps. They are doing that quite nicely without my help. (Note recent "whistle blower" investigations.) However, I can not understand why the Corps is so intractably dedicated to this devastating project. The Johnson County government is on record as opposing this project. The City of North Liberty opposes this project. The citizens who live and work in the surrounding areas oppose this project. The Corps chooses to ignore these voices. Who exactly advocates this project? Two wealthy businessmen in Cedar Rapids....and the Corps. It is a frightening lesson in civics for our children to learn that the majority voice of the American people means nothing to our government. Perhaps we just haven't paid the right people.

AC-01

Author: Mark Ogden <maogden@inav.net> at Internet
Date: 11/27/2002 6:14 PM

Normal

TO: chuck grassley at Grassley-DC

Subject: Muslim Youth Camp in Johnson County

----- Message Contents -----

o<+
Senator-

First off as a die-hard Republican and American, I want to thank you for the job you have done representing this state. Your integrity serves as an example to all of us.

Regarding the subject:

As a neighbor to the Camp Daybreak area that is the site of the proposed Muslim camp, I have several concerns-

1)

The Corps of Engineers and its staff, namely John Castle are extremely passionate in their support of the Muslim Youth Camp proposal. What we don't understand is why. Our questions and concerns have not been addressed to our satisfaction. The local community of North Liberty and city council have not been approached by the Corps as to the impact this will have on the city even though the proposal is taking credit for city services such as non-existent public parking to provide necessary needs. The Johnson County Board of Supervisor's concerns have been at best ignored or skirted, including road and access concerns. The blue-print of the proposal appears to be a complete rape of the land to construct a mosque-type structure, tents, boathouses, beaches and supporting parking spaces. The Corps has been very secretive about the relationship between itself and the MYCA organization. The Corps has created the impression that it is not interested in the concerns of its neighbors, the people it serves and responsible stewardship of the lands it oversees. Instead they are heavily focused on pushing through a proposal that serves a special interest group with connections to the big cities, Middle East, Washington DC and elsewhere. There are NO provisions in the proposal to serve the local neighbors and communities UNLESS you are of the Muslim faith. Additionally, this special interest group will pay only \$1.00 for the lease, will not have to pay any taxes due to its tax-exempt status and will utilize local resources paid for by tax-payers to support itself. Senator-with all due respect something is seriously broken in our system of checks and balances that allows this to happen. What can you do to address this concern?

2)

Regarding the connections of this group to powerful interest in DC- Mr. Aosse was an ambassador of sorts under the Clinton Administration. This connection may be the source of the influence that the MYCA group is able to exert on the Corps. It is understood that the MYCA group additionally held a fundraiser at the Collins Plaza in Cedar Rapids and raised \$150,000 in one night. This was largely supported by a significant contribution from an invited Middle East guest. In today's world, I think it is fair to look deeper at this and determine the actual source of the money and other charities supported by this individual. If Mr. Aosse and the group would come forth and produce documentation to dispute this claim, I would gladly remove it as a concern. They are also prepared to spend \$1.65 million in construction cost to support the camp. I believe we have a right to know who is behind this money, considering we will be supporting it as taxpayers.

3)

With regards to the use of the land- Why does the Corp refuse to allow any other group or organization to make application for the use of the land. Or better yet leave it in its current state to be enjoyed by bow hunters, bird enthusiasts, mushroom hunters, fishermen, hikers, skiers, joggers, kids, deer/squirrel/rabbit hunters, bikers etc all from the local Johnson/Linn County and surrounding area. I think most folks would agree that these groups all happily co-exist and respect the use of the land. What in the world is wrong with this type of use. In fact the Corps has been known to fine folks in this neighborhood \$100.00 for cutting a stray tree, but is willing to allow excavating, tree clearing and other violations of nature to create this camp.

While I have other concerns, I will share those at a later time in hopes of getting attention focused on the above.

Lastly, there is only a 45 day public review period for the Environmental Assessment. What can you do to help address these concerns and help us understand the reason behind the Corps passionate pursuit of this camp, with more feasible, neighbor and environmentally friendly options available? Your help and perspective on this issue would be greatly appreciated.

With my highest regards,

Mark Ogden
1985 Blue Heron Rd NE
North Liberty, Ia 52317

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Imported through WebRespond

Report Date: 12/10/2002

Assigned Staff: sa
Address To: General
Name: Mrs. Lynne Kinney
Address: 3530 Cumberland Ridge Road NE
North Liberty IA 52317 USA
Email Address: kealm3530@aol.com
Home Phone:
Work Phone: (319) 626-6160 **Fax:**
Salutation: Dear Mrs. Kinney:
Interest Code: IA-05 **Category 1:**
Classification: **Category 2:**
Ref. Number: **Category 3:**

Message:

Date Received: 12/7/2002 6:06:00 PM

Senator Grassley: I am outraged that the Corps of Engineers plans to develop a multi-million dollar "retreat/conference center/campus" for Muslim Youth Camps of America on the Shore of Coralville Lake, in North Liberty, Iowa. This is over the objections of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, the City of North Liberty, and the local taxpayers/citizens. Their environmental assessments says the development will have "no impact". I strongly disagree. I am asking that you look into this situation. I am asking that the Corps be forced to work with the local governments and taxpaying citizens, including complying with local zoning ordinances. I intend to provide you with more information. Thank you.

November 25, 2002

Dear Senator Grassley,

02 DEC -9 PH 2: 23

I am writing to you concerning a proposed Muslim Youth Camp that is to be built in our area. See enclosed newspaper article.

The Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to lease 106 acres of land near North Liberty, Iowa, that borders Coralville Lake. A proposed facility that can be used year round and accommodate up to 384 people overnight will be built on the site. The "troubled" youth, as they have been called, will be from not only the United States but all over the world. During the summer the camp will be used for Muslim Youth. However, the rest of the year this facility will be used as a Muslim retreat & conference center.

The concerns of those of us who live in the immediate area of the camp are many: the drain on our local aquifer, possible problems with sewage runoff into Coralville Lake, increased traffic on an already crowded county road, additional strain on our sheriff and fire departments.

The Johnson County Board of Supervisors is also opposed to the camp for the above reasons. They have offered to help find an alternate site for the group who want to build this facility.

In this post 9/11 world I am also concerned about why the US Army Corps of Engineers wants to lease land for a Muslim Youth group. Can the Muslim Youth Corps of America guarantee to the local residents that no one has terrorist links? How will these international youth obtain Visas? What's the purpose of all the new security going on in the entire country if we are just going to let hundreds of Muslim youth & adults gather at a camp in rural Iowa?

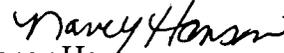
We feel the US Army Corps of Engineers have not listened to the concerns of the local residents. We would like you to contact them and ask them how they can approve this camp.

The contact person is Karen Hagerty, Project Manager, Clock Tower Building, PO Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois, 61204-2004.

We have only until January 2, 2003 to voice our opinions on this project. Please contact the Army Corps of Engineers as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Patrick Hanson


Nancy Hanson

3427 Elm Dr NE
North Liberty, IA
52317

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Imported through Webrespond

Report Date: 11/22/2002

Assigned Staff: adamf
Address To: General
Name: Mrs. Sandra A. O'Brien
Address: 3408 Twin Lakeview Drive, NE
North Liberty IA 52317 USA
Email Address: obrien@inav.net
Home Phone: (319) 626-7289
Work Phone: **Fax:**
Salutation: Dear Mrs. O'Brien:
Interest Code: TE-01 **Category 1:**
Classification: **Category 2:**
Ref. Number: **Category 3:**
Message:

Date Received: 11/20/2002 9:36:00 PM

Hi Mr. Grassley: Two years ago MYCA, a Muslim Youth Camp organization proposed putting a camp on 106 acres of public land near my home in North Liberty, Iowa. After two years the Army Corps of Engineers has come through with their findings that this would be the best use for this land. The findings were made public yesterday and are listed on their website. I can't believe that in the wake of the September 11 Terrorist Attacks it is a good idea to have a camp for muslim men ages 16-20 from outside the U.S. to come here and spend their summers. I feel very uncomfortable with the idea of that. I know you have looked into this before and it seems even more urgent now. This seems like a homeland security issue. Please see what you can do. Sandy O'Brien

Author: SHERRI NOVAK <boened@msn.com> at Internet
Date: 11/30/2002 1:27 PM
Normal
TO: chuck grassley at Grassley-DC
Subject: Muslim camp in Iowa

----- Message Contents -----

o<+>
Dear Senator Grassley, I would like to know if you are aware of the controversial proposal before the US Army Corps. of Engineers to approve a 20 year lease of land here in North Liberty Iowa for the purpose of constructing Muslim Youth Camps of America (MYCA)? As an American citizen I am wary of any plans for Muslim organizations who propose using facilities in the US funded by 'the larger Islamic community' that have not been reviewed by the Dept. of Homeland Security. I would like to know if your office can look into this matter which has the community extremely worried. I hope this is not another case of oversight where the departments involved in our national security were not briefed about this issue by the Corps.

Sincerely, Pat Novak

3026 River Oaks Dr. NE
N. Liberty 52317

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Imported through Webrespond

Report Date: 12/13/2002

Assigned Staff: sa
Address To: General
Name: Mrs. Evelyn Scott
Address: 5 Westview Acres NE
Iowa City IA 52240 USA
Email Address: evelyn-scott@uiowa.edu
Home Phone: (319) 354-2633
Work Phone: (319) 335-6579 **Fax:**
Salutation: Dear Mrs. Scott:
Interest Code: IA-05
Classification: Category 1:
Category 2:
Category 3:
Ref. Number:
Message:

Date Received: 12/12/2002 5:37:00 PM

I am concerned about the proposed building of a Muslim camp on Corps of Engineer property. It has gone through initial phases of approval--the Corps has found that they would not pollute the environment, so they have given their approval. Please do what you can to stop this until investigations are complete as to what is planned for the camp, what happens in other Muslim camps, which Muslims are on the planning board, and if they are in any way connected with terrorism, etc. Many groups have applied for permission to have a camp there and have been denied. Why are the Muslims getting preferred treatment? I appreciate so much the fact that you have responded to e-mails in the past! It is wonderful to know that we have a senator that takes our comments seriously and is working for Iowa. Sincerely, Evelyn Scott

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Imported through Webrespond

Report Date: 12/18/2002

Assigned Staff: adamf
Address To: General
Name: Mrs. Connie J. Nolan
Address: 314 South Summit Street
Iowa City IA 52240 USA
Email Address: nolan@inav.net
Home Phone: 319-351
Work Phone: nola **Fax:**
Salutation: Dear Mrs. Nolan:
Interest Code: TE-01 **Category 1:**
Classification: **Category 2:**
Ref. Number: **Category 3:**
Message:

Date Received: 12/17/2002 1:35:00 PM

The Corps of Engineers are going to give an ok on the proposed muslim camp on the Coralville Reservoir. I think this is crazy A muslim camp on a waterway in the midwest and not the Mideast. How far away is the Duane Arnold power plant? Is it on the Iowa River? which is the reservoir. They say the camp is for worldwide muslim use. Why here in the heartland? I am told Harkin got a lot of muslim money and wants this camp. He doesn't live here so why should he care. Please have someone check this out. connie Nolan

AC-01

02 DEC -9 PM 2: 25

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rock Island Dist.
Clock Tower Bldg.
PO Box 2004
Rock Island Il 61204-2004

Attention Karen Hagerty

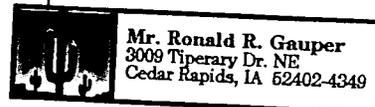
Re: Muslim camp approval

During the past decade I have experienced a lack of cooperation from the Muslim community when it comes to matters pertaining to their religion! Our constitution advocates separation of state and church but there is no give on their part when our customs conflict with theirs!

If they are able to control these 108 acres near North Liberty Ia, this will be a "hot bed" of training for their young people who are inclined toward the radical element of the Muslims!

Sincerely


Ronald R Gauper



319-362-4526



P.S. Attention *TO* Senator, Charles E Grassley
C/O Senate Office Bldg
Washington D.C

Senator Tom Harkin
C/O Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C.

02 DEC -9 PM 1:22

Karen Hagerty, Manager
Muslim Youth Corps Project
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Dear Manager Hagerty:

I am concerned that the Corps may be on the verge of making a grave mistake by approving the Muslim Youth Camp at Coralville Lake. This strikes me as another potential failure to connect all of the dots.

Many years ago, shortly after completion of the Coralville Dam, I served on the committee that made the Lake McBride Field Campus application. At that time, a major principle governing all applications was that any approved usage must be open to the general public. I thought then and I think now that was and is an appropriate requirement. This is public land! I questioned the prior approval of the area in question as a girl scout camp since that activity was not a general public activity. Even when no scouts were present one was left with the feeling of being a trespasser since no effort was made to encourage or o.k. general public usage.

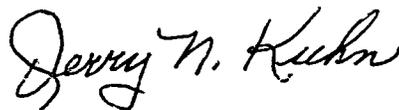
The situation with the current Muslim proposal is far worse. This is intended as exclusive yearlong usage together with permanent buildings. No non-Muslim or Muslim would continue to view the area as public land if this proposal is finalized. Approval would represent a giveaway of public property pure and simple! I do not believe the Corps is empowered to do that.

Of even greater consequence is the fact that at a time when the U.S. is under attack by terrorists many of whom have ethnic characteristics similar to this application group the Corps would be providing a potential camouflage site that could be used as an attack base. This is in no way to suggest that the application group is connected with terrorists. Rather, they could easily, unwillingly and unknowingly provide cover in an area where law enforcement is already inadequate.

This is a critical area for this part of the midwest. Two major dams are nearby. The Palo nuclear plant is only a few miles further. I do not know what research activities are now underway at the University of Iowa, but would venture that there are several with military and/or defense related implications. Then, too, there are the large crowds at football and basketball games that represent attractive terrorists targets.

All in all, I urge the Corps to rethink this matter. At the very least they should make sure the new Department of Homeland Security is given an opportunity to review the application before a decision is made to give final approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry N. Kuhn".

Jerry N. Kuhn
1536 Rochester Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52245

cc. Representative Jim Leach
Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Tom Harkin

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Imported through Webrespond

Report Date: 12/18/2002

Assigned Staff: petern
Address To: General
Name: Mr. Dennis Tallman
Address: 1999 Blue Heron Road NE
North Liberty IA 52317 USA
Email Address: dennis.tallman@combisep.com
Home Phone: 319
Work Phone: 626-3031 **Fax:**
Salutation: Dear Mr. Tallman:
Interest Code: GV-01 **Category 1:**
Classification: **Category 2:**
Ref. Number: **Category 3:**

AC-01

Message:
Date Received: 12/16/2002 6:10:00 PM
Senator Grassley;Below is a copy of a letter we sent to the Army Corps of Engineers opposing the Finding of No significant Impact in regards to the Camp Daybreak Area at Coralville Lake. Dennis TallmanDecember 16, 2002Department of the ArmyRock Island DistrictCorps of EngineersClock Tower BuildingP.O. Box 2004Rock Island, IL 61204-2004Attn: Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (Karen Hagerty)To Whom It May Concern:I am writing to challenge the draft Finding Of No Significant Impact in regards to the proposed lease by the Muslim Youth Camps of America of the former Camp Daybreak area at Coralville Lake. There will be significant impact on the environment, the roads, the neighbors, the local governmental agencies and the entire community. The environment will be impacted in several ways. First, the Muslim Youth Camps of America proposal for the development of this project states that 403 trees will be removed from the site, including 103 hickory, 46 honey locust, 49 oak, and 59 elm from the site. Forty four percent of these trees (177) are over 6 inches in diameter based on the study completed in 1999. Many of the other 226 trees are now over 6" diameter. It is difficult to comprehend that the removal and destruction of 403 trees bears no significant impact. How many trees need to be removed before there is an impact? The site has no location for a wastewater treatment and disposal facility which meets the separation distances from inhabitable residences, wells and lakes. This is cause for great concern. A variance would have to be granted by the sate of Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The minimum separation distances are determined to provide for negligible impact to surrounding areas. The reduction of these minimum separation distances would cause significant impact to the environment. The EA states that the existing well is rated at 28,000 gallons per day. The demand for the development is estimated at 8,860 gallons per day. There is no data to support the claim that no drawdown of the aquifer will occur outside the site boundary. The depth of this well is similar to three private/semiprivate wells adjacent to the property. Current water usage from the adjacent wells is estimated at 4,000gpd. (16 residences x 4 residents x 60gal ea). The pumping of 8,860 gallons per day of water from the same aquifer could cause significant impact to the existing well users. The EA states that no impact to the aquatic ecosystems is anticipated. However the act of constructing a 5,000 ft2 beach will severely impact the area. How will such a beach be constructed? A massive amount of sand will have to be brought to the area designated for the beach. Will the slope of the land where the beach is to built accommodate dump trucks? No access to this area exists without the construction of an access road and further removal/destruction of trees beyond what has already been mentioned. What about compaction and the long term effects of heavy equipment? The construction of a beach will have significant impact on the area. The land use classification for this tract of land was established in the Revised Corps Master Plan in 1977 and states that the land is suitable for intensive recreational activities. In 1977 the adjacent Cumberland Ridge neighborhood was not even platted. The population of Penn Township was less than half of what it is now. It is important to note that the consequences of the intended use of the land is different today than it was 25 years ago. According to the EA the intended use of the land is consistent with previous use of the site. This is simply not true. The Girl Scouts use of the site was limited to summer use only. A maximum of 30 girls were present at once and no permanent housing structures were constructed. The Lodge consisted of an open air pavilion without windows or indoor plumbing. The site was not used for any off season activities by outside groups. The proposed use by the Muslim Youth Camps of America calls for the construction of 25,742 ft2 permanent facilities consisting of a main lodge, caretakers facility and 10 cabins, 66 permanent parking spaces, 5,000 ft2 beech, canoe house, floating boat dock in the water and an international village. This in no way compares to the former use by the girl scouts camp. While the A3 zoning designation from the county, which the EA claims does not have jurisdiction, permits private recreational use of the land, it is incomprehensible that the proposed use is indeed private recreational use. Of the proposed 5,200 users per year, 4,000 or 76.9% is non-recreational for conferences, conventions, business retreats, weddings, etc. This is not the intended use of the site from the Corp or the County. Conferences, business retreats, and wedding receptions are commercial use and are not in line with any land use plan. This magnitude of usage would have a significant impact on the area. With respect to the roads and parking, it is stated that certain special events at the site (not camping/recreational) such as weddings, conferences and meetings could generate in excess of 100 vehicles per day. Only 52 parking spaces are planned at the central lodge. Does this make sense? Twice as many cars as parking spaces and an increase of 100 cars per day on the gravel access road will have a significant impact on the neighboring areas and Scales Bend Road. The Johnson County Board of Supervisors, City of North Liberty, Penn Township Trustees, and Cumberland Ridge Homeowners have all opposed this project due to the magnitude and the vast difference from any previous usage of the area. The lack of compatibility with the surrounding area is apparent. Environmental damages by the removal of hundreds of trees and lack of adequate spacing for water and sewer systems will cause significant impact to the area. The scope and scale of the proposal by Muslim Youth Camps of America is vastly different from the previous use by the Girl Scouts. The use of the area for conferences, weddings, receptions, and

Snapshot Report: Incoming Constituent Message

Imported through Webrespond

Report Date: 12/18/2002

retreats is commercial and does not comply with any land use plan, either the Corp or the County. We encourage you to reevaluate this project and agree that there will be significant impact if the Muslim Youth Camps of America is allowed to develop this commercial project on Corp land. Respectively Submitted; Dennis Tallman Sarah Tallman Dennis & Sarah Tallman 1999 Blue Heron Rd NE North Liberty, IA 52317 319-626-3031 Cc: Johnson County Board of Supervisors, City of North Liberty, Penn Township Trustees, Congressman James Leach, Senator Charles Grassley, Senator Tom Harkin



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

January 23, 2003

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator
206 Federal Building
101 -1st Street SE.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401-1227

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing in response to your letter of December 24, 2002, with the eleven accompanying emails from your constituents. The emails concern the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed lease at Coralville Lake.

Mr. Cary Beatty questions the integrity of the Corps of Engineers and Zambrana Engineering, Inc. (ZEI). For the record, the president of ZEI, Mr. Luis Zambrana, has never been an employee of the Corps of Engineers. The other issues or concerns raised by Mr. Beatty, Mr. Mark Ogden, Mrs. Lynne Kinney, and Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hanson have all been raised during the public comment period. All of these concerns will be addressed in the Corps of Engineers' responses to the public comments.

The emails from Mrs. Sandra O'Brien, Mr. Pat Novak, Mrs. Evelyn Scott, and Mrs. Connie Nolan have all expressed concerns about the presence of Muslims and/or terrorists, and the impacts thereof on homeland security. The Federal government does not discriminate based on race, sex, or religious persuasion. In addition, the Corps of Engineers is complying with all national security requirements applicable to leasing this property to the Muslim Youth Camps of America (MYCA) or any other group. Finally, there is no evidence at this time that the MYCA organization has any terrorist connections.

The emails from Mr. Ronald Gauper, Mr. Jerry Kuhn, and Mr. Dennis Tallman have also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers as public comment letters. All of these questions will be addressed in the responses to the public comments.

The Rock Island District is very aware of the concerns raised by this proposed project and is working diligently to ensure public and environmental concerns will be addressed to the fullest extent possible.

I hope that this information satisfactorily addresses the concerns expressed in the correspondence you have received. If you have further questions regarding this matter, your staff may call Ms. Karen Hagerty in our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch, telephone 309/794-5286.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Torkild P. Brunso
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Deputy District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1501