



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 8, 2003

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division

Honorable Jim Leach
House of Representatives
2186 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1501

Dear Congressman Leach:

This letter is in reference to a telephone conversation on January 3, 2003, between Ms. Allison Sugarman of your office and Mr. Ron Fournier of our Public Affairs office, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed lease at Coralville Lake.

Zambrana Engineering, Inc. has prepared the subject EA under contract to the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), evaluating the impacts of a proposed level of use and development by a nonprofit organization, as represented by the Muslim Youth Camps of America (MYCA) lease application for the use of Corps property located adjacent to Coralville Lake, about 2 miles northeast of North Liberty, Iowa (106-acre site). The proposed site was formerly leased to the Mississippi Valley Girl Scout Council for group camping purposes (Camp Daybreak) until 1990. A total of four alternatives were examined, including the following:

- a. Leasing the former Camp Daybreak area for group recreational use and development by a nonprofit organization at a level of development, as represented by the MYCA application;
- b. Leasing the former Camp Daybreak area for group recreational use and development by a nonprofit organization at a reduced level of development and use;
- c. Low density recreational day use of the former Camp Daybreak area under administration by the Corps (no lease); and,
- d. No Action; no current plans for development or lease.

In addition to the four alternatives identified above, alternative sites at Coralville Lake were considered for group recreational use and development by a nonprofit organization, as proposed in the MYCA application. An evaluation of all lands at Coralville Lake, designated as Recreational Intensive use or leased lands for nonprofit group use in the 1977 Master Plan, was performed by the Corps. Only the former Camp Daybreak site met all the criteria for further development/lease consideration for this proposed action.

The Final EA concluded that there were no significant environmental impacts as a result of the implementation of any of the four alternatives. Alternative 1 (a. above) was recommended as the preferred alternative. This alternative was selected for the following reasons:

- a. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the environment;
- b. It was the most consistent with project purpose and need;
- c. It was the most consistent with the designated land use for this site; and,
- d. It provided increased recreational benefit to the greatest number of users.

A draft FONSI is included in the Final EA. A lease cannot be issued until the environmental compliance process has been completed. This environmental process includes a 45-day public and agency review and comment period of the EA and draft FONSI. The standard length for the public review and comment period is 30 days. The comment period for this EA was extended an additional 15 days, in part due to the holidays. The comment period closed on January 2, 2003. Any substantive comments received by the Corps must be resolved before the FONSI can be signed, at which time the environmental process is completed.

If I can be of any further assistance or you would like additional information regarding the EA, your staff may contact Ms. Karen Hagerty in our Economic and Environmental Analysis Branch by telephone at 309/794-5286, or by e-mail at the following address: Karen.H.Hagerty@usace.army.mil.

If you have any questions regarding the lease proposal or lease process, your staff may contact Mr. Wayne Johanson in our Real Estate Division office by telephone at 309/794-5681, or by email at Wayne.E.Johanson@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

William J. Bayles
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

Copy Furnished:

Honorable Jim Leach
Representative in Congress
209 West 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801-1307