



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

March 20, 2014

Regional Planning and Environmental
Division North (RPEDN)

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST (APPENDIX P)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District) has enclosed the draft Definite Project Report (DPR) with integrated Environmental Assessment and Technical Appendices for the Emiquon East Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project, Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP). This project is a part of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program.

The Emiquon East HREP is located on the right descending bank of the Illinois River between river miles 121 and 126, near Havana, Illinois. The objectives of the proposed project are to 1) reestablish the hydrologic and ecological structure and function of a backwater aquatic wetland on the Illinois River; 2) provide high quality food and habitat for migrating waterfowl along the Mississippi and Illinois River's Flyway; 3) reestablish hydrologic and biochemical connectivity to the Illinois River; and 4) provide educational opportunities for visitors.

The recommended plan would restore the historic hydrology to the preserve and reintroduce its backwater contributions to the Illinois River by installing and operating a water control structure and pump station; and reduce wind fetch across the lake by building 10 interior islands.

This Project will be constructed on lands owned by The Nature Conservancy. As a result, funding for enhancement features would be cost shared 65 percent by the Federal government and 35 percent by the non-Federal Sponsor, The Nature Conservancy. Implementation of the recommended plan would increase the quality and quantity of preferred habitat at this location.

Please provide any questions or comments regarding this report, no later than 30 days from the date of this letter, to Mr. Joe Jordan, Biologist, Rock Island District. You may reach Mr. Jordan by telephone at 309-794-5791, or by writing to our address above, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (Joe Jordan). Please contact Mr. Jordan to request a paper copy of the report or additional CDs. The report is also available on the District's website, <http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil>. Once there, go to About at the top of the page and then select District Projects. Next, type in "Emiquon" at the Search box.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth A. Barr".

Kenneth A. Barr
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch (REPND)