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04/25/2008 04:49 PM

To OW-Docket@EPA

cc

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Subject I Oppose the Yazoo Pumps [EPA-R04-OW-2008-0179]

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Dear Sir,

I strongly oppose construction of the Yazoo Backwater Pumping Plant (Yazoo Pumps) in Mississippi. The Yazoo Pumps would cause tremendous environmental destruction and waste at least \$220 million federal tax dollars. I urge you to take all steps necessary to stop this project.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO DESTROY 200,000 ACRES OF WETLANDS IN THE WATERSHED OF AMERICA'S MOST HISTORIC RIVER THAT SHOULD EXIST FOR ALL AMERICANS TO ENJOY. YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT PATRIOTISM?? THAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT'S NOT.

AND FOR A FEW MORE ROW CROPS? BELIEVE IT OR NOT, EVERYTHING IS NOT ABOUT INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFIT TO THE MAX AND DAMN ANYTHING THAT STANDS IN THE WAY!

In 2000, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded that the Yazoo Pumps would drain and damage up to 200,000 acres of ecologically significant wetlands, or many times more wetlands destroyed under Clean Water Act permits nationwide in an entire year.

The wetlands that will be drained are a critical migration route for 20 percent of the nation's duck populations and include wetlands that federal taxpayers are already paying to protect in the Delta National Forest, a number of national wildlife refuges, and on lands enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) says that these wetlands are some of the richest natural resources in the nation. In addition to being a haven for ducks and other migratory birds, they support critically important floodplain fisheries and a host of wildlife species. These wetlands also improve water quality and help reduce flood damages by acting as natural sponges that store and slowly release floodwaters after peak flood flows have passed. Not surprisingly, the Service has concluded that Yazoo Pumps are "ecologically unsound" and "totally contrary to the Service's goal for a balance between economic and environmental sustainability."

In a throwback to another era -- and in direct violation of federal wetlands policy -- the Corps will use the Yazoo Pumps to drain wetlands to allow more intensive farming on floodplain

lands. Taxpayers will also bear the burden of any economic gains from this project. An economic analysis prepared for EPA shows that, at the most, the Yazoo Pumps will produce an increase in farm subsidy payments. Data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency shows that the Yazoo Pumps also make no sense for addressing the very limited residential flooding in this area.

The nation cannot afford the catastrophic environmental damage and economic consequences of the Yazoo Pumps. I urge the EPA to veto this destructive, unnecessary, and wasteful project.

Sincerely,  
Katarina Kosek  
420 Route 82  
Hopewell Jct., NY 12533

cc:  
Mr. Stephen Johnson, Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)