

Subject: comments

Resent-From: BarnesNursery.Comments@noaa.gov

Date: Mon, 23 Dec 2002 17:03:30 -0500

From: "Your Name" <glanders@stratos.net>

To: barnesnursery.comments@noaa.gov

Molly Holt
U.S. Department of Commerce NOAA
1305 East-West Highway
Room 6111
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dec 23 2002

Dear Ms Holt

I am writing on behalf of the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program to provide comment on the State of Ohio's denial of a finding of Coastal Consistency for the Barnes Nursey project in the Sheldon Marsh wetland complex. We support the State's position that this project is inconsistent with purposes of the Coastal Zone Management Act. We urge you to sustain that decision and deny the appeal by Barnes Nursey.

To begin, let me say that the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program office in Cleveland has followed the controversy surrounding this particular project since construction of a channel and dike first began. We have, to the degree that our schedule has allowed, participated in the public comment periods available to us, as well as carried on correspondence with the Army Corps of Engineers and other interested parties.

It is our belief that this project has never met the requirements for issuance of a permit, and we are shocked that Barnes Nursery has decided to continue the debate on to the appeal stage. Whatever the supposed purpose of this project, we believe it should be denied as an inappropriate intrusion on the Sheldon Marsh wetlands complex that would have large scale negative impacts. On the other hand, the purpose of irrigation for the nursery can be achieved through other means.

It is our belief that the history of this project has been marked by serious errors and questionable decision-making. We hope that in addition to considering the Barnes appeal, NOAA should review the record of the Army Corps involvement with this permit and initiate a full investigation of how and why things went wrong. It would be a far better use of federal resources than consideration of project that has been wrong since its inception.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment

Sincerely

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