



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

October 5, 2004

Mr. Steven E. Chester, Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Executive Division
P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7973

Dear Mr. Chester:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, is developing a claim for natural resource damage assessment costs for the Rouge River and Detroit River Mystery Oil Spill of April 2002 pursuant to §102(b)(2) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. We are inviting you, as one of the State co-trustees for natural resources to join us in making a claim for assessment costs and proceeding toward restoration of natural resources injured by this spill. Correspondingly, we also are inviting the Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Attorney General to participate in this assessment and restoration process.

Federal and State investigators have not identified a responsible party for this spill, so we will be making a claim for natural resource damages to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The President, acting through the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center, is authorized to use the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to pay the claims of natural resource trustees for uncompensated natural resource damages in accordance with §1012 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

We believe that the public and their natural resources are best served by all of the natural resource trustees working together on assessment and restoration. We look forward to hearing from you as to whether your agency will participate in this claim or not. Because we intend to submit a claim to the U.S. Coast Guard by the end of this year, your response to this matter at your earliest convenience is appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Lisa Williams, of this office, at 517-351-8324.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and expeditious response to this matter.

Sincerely,


for Craig A. Czarnecki
Field Supervisor



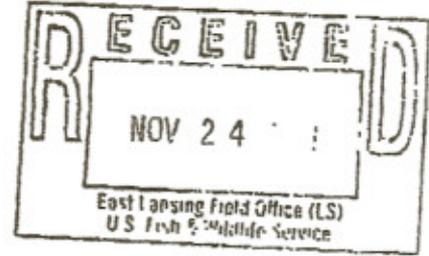
JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

November 19, 2004



Mr. Craig A. Czamecki
Field Supervisor
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
East Lansing Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

Dear Mr. Czamecki:

Thank you for your letter of October 5, 2004, regarding the proposed natural resource damage claim for the Rouge River and Detroit River mystery oil spill that occurred in April 2002.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) agrees that this project would be best served by all trustees participating in the claim. Therefore, the DEQ looks forward to collaborating with you in preparing a claim for assessment costs and restoration of impaired resources. Based on preliminary discussions, we also understand that the other Michigan trustees will be participating in this claim as well.

The contact person for this claim will be Mr. William Creal, Chief, Permits Section, Water Bureau, and he can be reached at 517-335-4114.

Thank you for initiating this process. If you need further information or assistance, please contact Mr. Creal, or you may contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Chester
Director
517-373-7917

cc: Mr. Stanley F. Pruss, Deputy Director, DEQ
Mr. Richard A. Powers, DEQ
Mr. James K. Cleland, DEQ
Mr. William Creal, DEQ

- Czamecki
- Best
- Brewer
- Dandridge
- DeCapita
- Deloria
- Dingleline
- Eitnicar
- Fisher
- Gourley
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- Kavetsky
- Kubilis
- Mensing
- Pastva
- Tansy
- Williams