

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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ANDRUS WITHDRAWS OBJECTIONS TO CLARK MARITIME CENTRE

Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus today announced he was withdrawing his department's objections to the issuance of a permit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow construction of the proposed Clark Maritime Centre near Jeffersonville, Indiana.

"Studies of the project have not identified any quantified adverse impacts to the fish and wildlife resource bases," Andrus said. "Thus, it is my conclusion that the impacts on fish and wildlife resources are minimal as a result of imposing these permit conditions."

The project, a port terminal and industrial complex proposed by the Indiana Port Authority, would consist of three barge terminals with storage buildings and stockpiles on about 170 acres. An additional 800 acres would be used for industrial development.

In a letter to Chief of Engineers Gen. John W. Morris, Andrus said he had personally reviewed the record and was withdrawing objections to the issuance of the permit subject to the Corps imposing seven conditions identified by the Corps in 1978.

Andrus also strongly urged that an additional condition be imposed on the permit, requiring the applicant to fund and undertake, in conjunction with Corps, the Fish and Wildlife Service and appropriate resource agencies from Indiana and Kentucky, a study of the impacts of increased dredging and navigation traffic on the fish and wildlife resource base. "Such a study would be of significant value in assessing the impacts of other developments which may be under consideration for the Ohio River and its utilization," Andrus concluded.

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