



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

August 2, 2010

Ms. Susan Spain, Project Executive
The National Mall Plan
National Mall & Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Re: National Mall Plan, To Prepare a Long-Term Plan that will Restore National Mall,
Implementation, Washington, DC (CEQ #20100257)

Dear Ms. Spain:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing EPA (40 CFR 1500-1509), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the National Mall Plan in Washington, DC. While the FEIS addressed most of EPA's comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), EPA would like to reiterate comments made on the DEIS in its letter of March 15, 2010 that were not addressed in the FEIS.

(Comment B) EPA questioned whether signage would be required to identify graywater for awareness purposes especially since children are inclined to expose themselves to the water in ornamental features. Even if signage is not required, EPA suggested that it may be a useful tool to emphasize the National Park Services (NPS) approach to seeking sustainable water which would also serve to inform the public of the type of water used within the ornamental features. This step towards safety and education is one that the NPS may want to consider and address.

(Comment C) The DEIS discussed widening the walkways which could require moving the Tidal Basin walls into the basin, resulting in the loss of about 5 acres of warm and shallow water habitat used by fish and other aquatic organisms. EPA requested that the FEIS specify the rationale for selecting fill as the NPS option and discuss other alternatives that may have been analyzed. The FEIS did not address this comment nor provide other methods of widening the walkways.



(Comment D) Since the water quality of the Tidal Basin was not discussed in the DEIS, EPA suggested that it be presented in the FEIS. This information is pertinent to discerning approaches to working in the basin as well as developing mitigation measures to protecting aquatic habitat.

(Comment G) The DEIS stated that recreational fishing is allowed in the Tidal Basin. EPA requested that the FEIS specify the habitat in the Tidal Basin that would be affected by moving the basin walls and how this work could affect habitat. In addition, since fish may already be compromised by contaminants, what measures will the NPS incorporate to protect habitat during construction?

Thank you for providing EPA with the opportunity to review this project. If you have questions regarding these comments, the staff contact for this project is Karen DelGrosso; she can be reached at 215-814-2765.

Sincerely,



Barbara Rudnick
NEPA Team Leader
Office of Environmental Programs

