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Deborah Lea

Court Clerk: Ethan Mikell

Deputy Clerk: Hollie Berard

City Attorney: John Sutton

202 Jefferson St., P.O. Box 822
Monticello, Mississippi 39654

June 12, 2023

Colonel Christopher Klein
Vicksburg District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435

Dear Colonel Klein;

The Town of Monticello is vehemently opposed to the Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control Districts (NFI) Alternative C and urge USACE to further investigate UC Berkley's Alternative D as well as a version of the originally approved, Corps drafted levee plan, or Alternative A1 and Combination Hybrid Plan. Alternative C is the most destructive plan and the most damaging to downstream interests. All areas south of the proposed placement of the Savannah St. dam have suffered unrecoverable losses of riverbank due to the operations of the Ross Barnett Reservoir. The sudden releases of water and then sudden closing of their flood gates have caused irreparable loss of riverbank, resulting in a much wider channel which causes lower downstream flows and causing warmer temperatures in dry months. I would also request that the Corps perform an analysis of increased water velocity and impacts to downstream in Alternative C. It appears that in this plan the goal is to move water out at a faster rate which will exacerbate flooding downstream. The 200 miles below this dam cannot withstand further alterations to the Pearl River. Our economy and quality of life depend on the Pearl River - to dam the Pearl in two areas that are less than 10 miles apart will be a shameful travesty.

The destruction of thousands of acres of wildlife and wetland habitat, the threat to recreational and commercial fishing and Mississippi's seafood industry, the release of toxins from disturbance of the eight known waste sites, combined with the billions of gallons of raw sewage that have been emptying into our river for many years make Alternative C the absolute worst possible scenario. In addition, the true costs of Alternative C are grossly underestimated in the EIS. Alternative C is not environmentally acceptable nor technically feasible.

Mayor Martha Watts
Town of Monticello

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