

Responses to comments made at the open house on 4-30-2013 by the comment box

- Comment: Safety mitigation will not be attained unless the undermining of the dam is addressed, which has not been studied by any of the criteria mentioned to date.

Response: All alternatives that keep any portion of the dam structure in place at either dam accounts for the stabilization and/or repair of those portions of the dam that are undermined and deteriorated.
- Comment: “Restoring ecological connectivity” will open up the area to new threats from invasion by alien species, including Asian Carp found today nearby in the Wabash River.

Response: Neither the Ellsworth Park Dam nor the Danville Dam is a deterrent to migration of Asian Carp. Asian Carp can jump 8 to 10 feet in the air while the dam is less than 6 feet above water. The Danville Dam is also submerged on an annual basis and it has a facility near the west bank for fish passage that would allow Asian Carp to migrate upstream of the dam. Additionally, Asian Carp prefer slow moving water and are more likely to be present with the dam in. Asian Carp primarily migrate during times of high flows when both dams become submerged, allowing these fish to migrate upstream of the dams. The dams do not act as a barrier to Asian Carp, but do act as a barrier to other fish species.
- Comment: Recreation and existing fishing will be severely affected and may be totally destroyed.

Response: Recreation on the Vermilion River will still be possible with less percentage of opportunities for motorized boating and more opportunities for personal watercraft. There will be times that river levels will be sufficient for motorized boats and they will have the ability to access the reach of the river downstream of the dam. The quality of recreational fish present upstream of the dam site would improve fishing opportunities in that area if the dam were removed. A large stretch of river downstream of the dam would be opened up to personal watercraft users by removal of the dam.
- Comment: Existing upstream wetlands will vanish.

Response: The Comprehensive Environmental Review Process (CERP) required for all IDNR funded projects, indicated that the only impacted wetland was the river itself, and that the Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989 would not be violated by any of the alternatives evaluated. Please see the following website for more information on our CERP process. <http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/ee/cerp.htm>
- Comment: Boating and canoeing touring expeditions, along with their economic advantages, will be severely curtailed.

Response: While motor boating in the pool of dam will be reduced during times of low flow, it will not be eliminated by dam removal. Canoes and kayaks will be able to extend the length of their trip beyond the dam site during normal and higher flows in the river. Motorized boats will be able to reach new sections of the river downstream of the dam under certain flow conditions.

6. Comment: The existing dam in fact does have a utilitarian purpose. It guarantees the existence of a water pool eight to ten feet deep, roughly a mile long and containing some 130 plus acre feet of water that represents a major economic asset for industries requiring large water flows for cooling or other manufacturing operations. This pool extends quite some distance upstream to the west, beyond the confines of the City of Danville, into rural Vermillion County, and was a vital asset for the former General Motors Danville facility located nearby. It remains a potential major economic asset to the area.

Response: The dam on the Vermilion River currently holds 135 acre-feet of water storage over 1.5 miles. If the dam was removed the natural river would hold 63 acre-feet of water storage over 1.5 miles. Currently no industrial or manufacturing operations utilize the pool created by these dams, nor are any such uses proposed. Please see response 18 for more information on water supply for industrial and manufacturing use.

7. Comment: Beyond that, the dam represents a physical barrier to the spread of the Asian Carp into tributaries of the Vermillion River, which includes the Middle Fork of the Vermillion River, the only Wild and Scenic River in the State of Illinois. Loss of this dam could affect the economic vitality associated with the presence of the Middle Fork.

Response: Please see response 2 on Asian Carp.

8. Comment: Every grand old dam(e) needs a little attention now and then, and the last – and perhaps only – maintenance actually documented having been done to the old gal was caulking, sealing, and some cap replacement work done in 1970 by General Motors. By and large, she’s gotten along pretty well all by herself for most of her 100-some years.

Response: The dam needs more than “a little attention” to restore it to a safe and stable condition. Dam restoration/stabilization costs are estimated to be at least \$1,200,000. The dam was repaired in 6 sections in 1970. Newer concrete was poured at the upstream face of the dam in response to the spalling occurring on the downstream face of the dam. These six sections can be seen as the dam is visibly wider at the spalling locations. Water currently seeps through the dam at these locations.

9. Comment: We believe the dam may be seriously undermined, and without an appropriate investigation, and strengthening, removal of the face could cause the failure of the existing center section, and the loss of one or both bank shoulders, were the face to be removed as proposed.

Response: Please see response 1 on undermining.

10. Comment: The Ellsworth Park Dam was built circa 1932 to create a city recreational swimming hole as an alternative to building a pool in a city park. At the time, there was a sand beach, and lifeguards.....

Response: The City currently does not utilize the Ellsworth Park Dam for swimming.

11. Comment: We suggest that there should be one other alternative cost to be considered, that of a study to assess the degree of undermining of the dam structure, allowing waters to pass under the structure, and the provision of stone and hydraulic cement to close any breaches found. Consider it alternative 4a, with an investigative cost of \$18,000 and a correction phase of \$44,000, for a cost of \$62,000 to seal any breaches documented. If something must be done, we would prefer completion of the breach correction, as suggested above, followed by Alternative 4, the Rock Ramp, for a total cost of some \$2,768,700, including the breach correction. As we believe Alternative 4 could be completed utilizing only lands currently belonging to the city of Danville, we do not understand the inclusion of \$136,000 as cost for land acquisition.

Response: To our knowledge there are no documented breaches underneath the spillway of either dam. The breach you are referring to is a sluice gate that is currently in the open position. There are three sluice gates in the dam that were used to drop water surfaces during low flows if maintenance was needed. It is unknown as to whether these gates are currently operational. The land rights costs are for the Ellsworth Park Dam rock ramp or step spillway alternatives to meet permit requirements of the state and mitigate increased flooding on private properties upstream of the dam on the North Fork via permanent recorded flood easements. There are no land rights requirements for any alternatives proposed on the Vermilion River Dam.

12. Comment: Further, we would like to compliment the IDNR for their belatedly suspicious radio campaign locally touting the need to attend to safety around the dam. I am sure our local media will welcome the influx of money... We find it interesting that our cash-strapped state can suddenly find the resources, and political will, to care so much about our well-being, after all these years...

Response: The removal of the Danville Dam and the Ellsworth Park dam were identified by Governor Quinn as part of his Dam Removal Initiative of 2012. The State of Illinois General Assembly has appropriated funds to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for dam removal; these funds are from bond sales that are part of the Governor's "Jobs Now" program. The City of Danville would be required to provide the rights-of-way required for the dam removals and any utility relocation required. The State of Illinois, through the Department of Natural Resources, would be responsible for the design and implementation of the dam removal project and any associated river work.

13. Comment: Part of what has been unsaid by IDNR is the fate of biologic enterprises being conducted in our corner of the state, transplanting various species of fauna, not particularly known as local habitants, and therefore perhaps alien species. IDNR and their federal counterpart has spent perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars transplanting several species of critters from Pennsylvania, with the hopes of keeping them from going extinct during a bridge removal in Pennsylvania. Hopefully, these fauna will be at least partially returned to their native home, leaving some part of them locally to add to our non-native bio-load. Will the newly expanding "Asian Carp," really a group of some 8 different species, feast on the mussels? Only time will tell. According to one authority, "some species of Asian carp cause harm when they are introduced to new environments. The black carp feeds on native mussels and snails, some of which can be already endangered. Grass carp can alter the food webs of a new environment by altering the communities of plants, invertebrates and fish. Silver carp feed on the plankton necessary for larval fish and native mussels and most likely non-native, "transferred Pennsylvania mussels". So much for that expensive project.....

Response: The "transferred Pennsylvania mussels" referenced are native Illinois inhabitants. They are extirpated species that are being re-introduced back into Illinois with individuals from one of the last two known populations using the Federal Recovery Plan for Clubshell and Northern Riffleshell. One of the listed objects is establishing viable populations of both species across their historical ranges. If successful, it will have achieved a step toward delisting the species. Asian carp have been confirmed upstream of the Vermilion Dam. The natural condition of the Vermilion River doesn't offer suitable habitat for Asian carp as the larger rivers do. The removal of the dams will further deter their presence in these locations.

14. Comment: Also unexplained as of yet by the IDNR, is the fate of the sequestered siltation that currently lies upstream behind the dam. This siltation is known by all who have cared to ask to contain decades of deposition into the stream of legal deposition of wastewaters containing some portions of various heavy metals generally

toxic in larger concentration. For decades, this material has collected, from Rantoul, Chambana, and Danville, to comprise a bed of material settled behind the Public Safety Dam. What is to be its fate: What have the tests shown, if they have in fact been run? If this material is allowed to flow downstream, every small town down river will have to examine their water treatment practices, and perhaps adjust their chemistry, at costs upward of \$50,000 per community. And that is if the materials are not considered toxic by today's tighter standards. These materials have lain for decades behind the dam, and have no doubt co-mingled with various soil acids, to react with each other, and perhaps lock up their ability to leach readily into the environment. Or perhaps not! If the sediments are found to be such that they must be contained, and removed to a suitable landfill, those costs are not included in the IDNR proposal we have been shown, and the "least expensive alternative" – Partial Dam Removal, may well turn out to be far more expensive than we are being told here.

Response: Extensive probing by IDNR upstream of both dams has determined that the river bed in the upstream pools consists of sand and gravel with no siltation with the exception of one location where the channel bank has cascaded off into the channel. Additionally, the IDNR contracted with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct extensive riverbed material sampling, grading, and testing work in 2011. As part of this work, 21 particle size, 32 sediment quality and 11 water supernatant samples were collected from the Vermilion and North Fork Rivers. The 32 sediment quality samples were compared to the IEPA /Tiered Approach to Corrective Action (TACO) Tier 1 standards, only one of chemical constituents exceeded the allowable limit set in the standard in one sample. The sample was taken in the channel bank between the Ellsworth Park Dam and the Main Street Bridge. In both removal alternatives, erosion protection is proposed to stabilize the containment and ensure it does not get into the river system. No toxic material is present in the channel bed and no toxic material would be conveyed down the river if dam removal is implemented. All project costs for Ellsworth Dam reflect cost to contain and stabilize the constituent.

15. Comment: The City of Danville has told the public that the prime reason for the dam's removals is public safety, and liability. Let's tell the truth here, the city is insured by an insurance group, the Mayor's favorite group that has cancelled offering coverage for dam liability to cities that own dams. If your insurance company dropped coverage on water skis, and you were into water skiing, what would you do? Find a different insurance company! Liability does not need to be the tail wagging our dog!

Response: A recent court case in Illinois found that the owner of a dam had some liability from a drowning at the dam even though the dam was on a stretch of river

that was not opened to the public, there were signs warning people to not trespass on the dam owners property (the river), there were warning signs indicating the presence of the dam and the people who were in the watercraft had been drinking. Putting up signs does not protect a dam owner from liability for accidents that happen at the dam.

16. Comment: The State of Illinois has indemnified one private company that had liability problems on the north-west Vermillion River, and the State has now assumed responsibility for liability on that stretch of river. Why doesn't the State of Illinois, and IDNR, suggest the same solution for our problem here in Danville? Has the City Council asked for them to do this?

Response: The IDNR does lease a portion of the Vermilion River (tributary to the Illinois River) that is privately owned by private company. To restore public access and use for recreational paddling on a privately owned portion of the Vermilion River in LaSalle County, the IDNR has leased this reach of Vermilion River from the property owner. Without the lease, the company would "close the river" to this portion of a highly recreated river since the river is privately owned within their property. The Vermilion River Dam at Danville is located on state designated public waters and cannot be "closed". The IDNR is working with this private property owner to improve public safety at a low head water supply dam in this reach, which includes consideration of removal of the low head dam.

17. Comment: There are other solutions to our perceived problems other than tearing out the dams. Historically, the city of Danville has not spent one thin dime maintaining or repairing their dam, and it is high time they did so. The only money spent has been to provide signage, and to set and maintain buoys. It is high time the city stepped up to their legal requirements under Federal law and maintained the cap on the dam, fixed the erosion and leakage problems, and become responsible dam owners.

Response: The Vermillion Dam property was conveyed to the City of Danville in March 1972. In lieu of dam restoration to bring the dam into compliance with state dam safety standards the City of Danville is considering the removal of this dam. If the City of Danville decides to keep the dams, the IDNR would recommend that the city conduct extensive repairs at the dams to bring the dams into compliance with today's dam safety standards.

18. Comment: The present impoundments of water behind these dams I view as a precious resource, not to be relinquished or diminished without extremely persuasive reasons. Realistically, once lost, these impoundments will not be restored in the foreseeable future, and probably not ever, due to future costs if no other reason. Vermilion County's own local experience over perhaps five decades with the former

General Motors Central Foundry plant located along the south side of the Vermilion River just a short distance west of Route 1 (Gilbert St.) demonstrates the value of such a water impoundment to a large industrial facility. I'm told GM typically drew ten million gallons of water from the river daily and returned nearly the same quantity daily to carry out their operation and reduce costs. That ready supply of water in industrial quantity is still there today for future economic redevelopment of the area, but will be lost if the dam is removed. It is a very significant feature available to offer potential industry.

Response: On an average day the Vermilion River flow is 280 MGD which provides adequate needs for industry if needed. If General Motors or any other industry required 10 million gallon per day (MGD) of water from the Vermilion River, that water is provided by the upstream flow coming into the pool, not by the dam being there. During the lowest flow of the extreme drought in 2012 (8-3-12 at 1pm CST or 8-5-12 at 2am CST), the river provided 17 MGD. After dam removal, the pool depths in the river will continue to be more than adequate for a water intake location.

19. Comment: Environmental hazards of presently unknown scope and magnitude may well be created by removal of these dams. Consider: in recent years Lake Vermilion's level was raised by five feet rather than the alternative, which would have involved dredging up massive amounts of decades-long accumulation of various toxic and environmentally noxious pollutants which had settled onto the lake bottom, along with the silt and sediment from the farm field runoffs. With the decades of water flowing down the Vermilion River towards these two dams from farm field runoff and also the vast amounts of GM-recycled water, there is no telling at the moment the extent or toxicity of whatever has accumulated in the river bottoms along the entire impoundment areas. Removal of the dams would, over time, cause much if not most of that material to wash downriver for many miles into Indiana, potentially contaminating beyond repair the source of water for several communities located downriver. Before this scenario is unleashed, serious investigations need to be performed by competent, disinterested parties, to have some informed basis on which to decide whether to proceed with dam removal. It would seem appropriate that relevant officials of the State of Indiana should be notified of such a potential impact on their waterways well before any decision is made by the State of Illinois to remove these dams.

Response: Please see response 14 in regards to sediment and pollutants. Numerous permits are required prior to constructing any project within a waterway. Agencies that review the impacts to any project of this type include the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, the

project has received comments from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Natural History Survey

20. Comment: I understand the reasoning put forth by some that, should the dams be removed, the water levels up river will be unaffected above the end of the present impoundment area. That may be true for most of the year. However, during the regular springtime periods of high water rushing down the Middle Fork Branch, I worry that the absence of the dams will result in much higher velocity of floodwater flowing downriver. The predictable consequence of this will be increased erosion of riverbanks. This will cause not only significantly greater amounts of dirt and sand washed downriver, but it will possibly also create significant ecosystem damage along the shorelines and even in the river itself. It is difficult to project the full effects this could have on a variety of creatures presently inhabiting those particular ecosystems. I should mention that a stretch of perhaps fifteen miles of the Middle Fork Branch of the Vermilion River above these dams has been granted national Scenic River designation by the U.S. Government, and anything which might threaten or damage that portion of the Middle Fork presumably needs to be considered carefully and approved by the appropriate federal authorities.

Response: The Strategic Planning study, evaluated flow conditions on the Vermilion and North Fork River from a severe drought up to the 500-year flood event (0.2% annual flood chance). During higher flows the impacts of the dams are less than during low flow conditions because the dam becomes submerged and has little impact on the water elevations. The changes in velocity, resulting from the alternatives evaluated are only significant (greater than 3 feet per second), during low flow conditions. Most of the erosion in the watershed occurs during flood flows when velocities will be unchanged by the alternatives evaluated including dam removal. If dam removal is selected by the city of Danville, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must review and approve the permit and all aspects of the work proposed before it proceeds.

21. Comment: Reports are that a few Asian carp have already been seen above the (at least lower) dam. As is well known, they are a very unwelcome invasive species. Dam removal will throw the door wide open for them to totally take over the 175 miles of upriver waterways which some people want to throw open to greater fish diversity. Well, Asian carp will reduce, not increase, the type of river diversity those folks purportedly wish to promote. At present, there is some hope that, if the Asian carp numbers are quite limited as they appear now to be, their measure may be found to arrest their progress upriver from the dam and eventually removed them. Dam removal destroys this possibility. It would seem appropriate for the IDNR to consult with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife folks to explore the likely impact on future health and

diversity of native fish and other riparian species in all three branches of the Vermilion River, in view of the predictable full invasion of Asian carp, should the dams be removed.

Response: Please refer to response 2.

22. Comment: I understand one of the, and indeed perhaps the only, main motivation for some in the City of Danville government to want the dams removed is to eliminate potential legal liability should somebody die or be injured from some involvement with a City owned dam. Reportedly, the City's current insurance carrier (the Illinois Municipal League, I believe) does not provide liability coverage for dams. An obvious idea to rectify that is for the City of Danville to secure liability coverage for the dams from another carrier, temporarily for now until the next renewal date of the existing policy with the Illinois Municipal League. The entire City insurance package could then be rebid to fold in dam liability coverage going forward. Any additional premium cost involved for dam coverage ought not be too onerous in view of the overall considerations involved affecting the City and the surrounding area.

Response: Please refer to response 12.

23. Comment: Reportedly there is a dam partway between Danville and Watseka which is owned by a private corporation, and that corporation has been granted immunity by the State from legal liability should that corporation be sued as a result of its dam.

Response: Please refer to response 16.

24. Comment: If we have never been able to predict a river throughout history because of the tremendous power of water, how can the IDNR tell us the health of our rivers will not change when water levels are dropped? The Middle Fork is a very narrow river with a very narrow flood plain. Runoff is quickly channeled into the river making it flow swiftly during the rainy season but, in the summer and fall, the river slows down. Dropping the water level even slightly may change the entire health of the river. In my opinion the Middle Fork is too important to the economy of Danville to risk the chance that this may happen.

Response: If the Vermilion River Dam was removed, impacts extent to a maximum of 1.5 miles upstream of the dam when considering flows from extreme drought up to the 500 year event (or 0.2% probable storm). The confluence with the Middle Fork is 6.4 miles upstream of the Vermilion River Dam.

25. Comment: How can the river increase fishing opportunities when the fishermen will no longer be able to get on the river? Avid anglers do not fish from canoes!

Response: Please refer to response 3 and 5.

26. Comment: How many canoeists will want to go from the eastern part of Champaign County to the Wabash? What a trip! If they do not exit at Ellsworth ramp the next exit is 22 miles away at Forest Glen. How many canoeists and kayakers will want to carry their boat half of the time?
- Response: According to the “River Mileages and Drainage Areas for Illinois Stream” published by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1979 by R.W. Healy, the Forest Glen county Park Access Area is less than 11 miles downstream from the Ellsworth Park boat ramp. A typical low summer flow is over 90 cubic feet per second which is adequate to canoe or kayak without carrying the boat.
27. Comment: How will canoeists and kayakers get beyond Memorial Bridge? The remains of the old bridge lies below. If the debris is removed allowing access how much will that cost on top of removing the dam?
- Response: The old bridge parapet wall in the Vermilion River will be removed as a part of the project. The IDNR will ask IDOT to remove this concrete obstruction from the river. If IDOT does not remove the old bridge remnants, it will be removed as part of the dam removal project at an estimated cost under \$1,000. This cost is incorporated into the cost estimate as part of the Contingencies.
28. Comment: Do the aldermen realize the true picture of what our river will become? It will not be a nice flowing river; it will become a mostly dried up stream.
- Response: Upon dam removal, the river will appear as it does upstream and downstream of the existing pool today.
29. Comment: That section of river now produces lunker, small mouth bass, catfish and muskie. Where will those fish go and will they continue to grow that large? Most anglers go hundreds of miles north to catch smallmouth of that size! We have a tourist attraction in our smallmouth population alone!
- Response: According to IDNR Fisheries biologists, the small mouth bass tend to leave the pooled areas behind the dams during the summer due to the lack of water quality that occurs in the pool. It is expected that the small mouth will thrive in an open river with the better water quality conditions. Deep pools up to 11 feet deep are expected to remain in the restored channel upstream of the dam after dam removal.
30. Comment: Why don't we promote our area rivers, lakes and parks? Our of area folks often comment on all of the GOOD THINGS Danville has that they wish they had. Why don't we develop a River Walk on the north side of the River! That would be a tourist attraction. But folks will expect to see water not a dried out stream.
- Response: A typical low summer flow is over 90 cubic feet per second. The normal flow throughout the year is over 420 cubic feet per second according to the USGS stream gage located at the Danville Sanitary District since 1914. These values

increase 35% and 20% respectively when you only consider the last 25 and 50 years, respectively.

31. Comment: Why don't we have trash cans at the Ellsworth ramp year round? The trash is horrific along the river.

Response: The comment is noted but not directly related to the Strategic Planning Study by IDNR Water Resources.

32. Comment: How many aldermen have ever been on the river to truly appreciate its beauty? Take a good look as when the dam is removed you won't be able to get there to look!

Response: The Middle Fork is a national scenic waterway because it is a free flowing river. Below is an excerpt from the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act which can be found at the following link: <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/fed-sta/wsr-act.pdf>. "A wild, scenic or recreational river area eligible to be included in the system is a free-flowing stream..."

33. Comment: The Fairmount conservation club opposes the removal of the Vermilion River dam. The Fairmount Conservation Club is located on the Salt fork river approximately four miles northwest of Catlin. The Salt fork river runs between two parcels of the property belonging to the club. This section of river is approximately one mile long and used by our club members. The Salt Fork River which is part of the Vermilion river system would be greatly compromised by the removal of the dam. The river in the location concerned is currently 50 yards across and 4-5 feet deep. The dam removals would make this stretch of river no more than a creek. This would limit our club members use of our section of the river that we currently enjoy. We oppose this action.

Response: The removal of these dams would not impact the Salt Fork of the Vermilion River. Please refer to response 24.

34. Comment: Catlin Township opposes the removal of the Vermillion river dam. The Vermilion River forms approximately one fourth of a mile above Anderson Hill Bridge. The Salt Fork River and Middle Fork River join together at this point. The Anderson Hill Bridge is situated across the Vermilion River at this juncture. Catlin Township partnered with the Vermilion County Highway Department in 2009, at a cost of \$64,000 to shore up the east bank of the Vermilion River and also to place concrete around the center pier of this bridge to divert water flow away from it. We, the Catlin Township Board, believe that if the dam is removed the Vermilion River will have a much faster and narrowed flow. Therefore, it will cut a new river bed and possibly start eroding around the center pier of the Anderson Hill Bridge.

Response: Please refer to responses 24 and 33.

35. Comment: During the course of the studies of the Danville Dam and the Ellsworth Dam, I have come to the belief that we should preserve these dams. There are numerous reasons that I believe that these dams should be modified rather than removed. The removal would not be in the entire best interest of the community. Rather the restoration and increased safety plan would be. Many people have located here thru the years due to the water and its beauty, and added value to the property. The downside of a hazardous place in which people drown can be remedied, and those changes would be a tremendous benefit to the safety of the Vermilion River system and would enhance the beauty of it as well. While it's always sad when a drowning occurs, the modification of the the dam would be a solution to the problem. Also, I feel that society has failed in teaching the dangers of water and how to avoid drowning in seemingly calm waters. The beauty of the river is enhanced when it is full of water especially during drought, and if the drought of 2011 and 2012 did not teach of the importance of the holding of water reserves then we all must be putting our blinders on. Many evenings in the summer I spent sitting along the river to watch to abundant wildlife that flourished above these dams because of the water supply, I also believe that had they not been in place the river would have run dry or nearly dry over both summers.

Response: While other alternatives do improve safety and fish passage, only dam removal improves water quality, eliminates public safety concerns at the dam, and allows for all species free movement through the water system. Please also refer to responses 30 and 32.

36. Comment: While I am not a fisherman or a person who really even enjoys being out on the water, I have heard countless statements from various fishing clubs throughout the region that say these dams are beneficial to the stock of fish in the rivers, it enhances the boating ability during all seasons, during droughts and that reports stating otherwise would be false. Several engineers said that the water level would go so low that the boat dock we installed in Ellsworth Park would become unusable except during high river times. Much of the river would become un-navigable except during rainy seasons. Also there are species of clams that live at the dams that would disappear. There are numerous studies supporting this and I can clearly see the clam shells around the dams.

Response: IDNR's assessment of how often the boat ramp will be wet shows that the ramp will have water on it during normal flow conditions (flows in the order of 400 cfs or greater). The navigability of the water will not be impacted for canoes and kayaks. The Strategic Planning Study reveals that 50% of the time water depth will be 30 inches or more in all areas upstream of Gilbert Street Bridge which is adequate

for most boats. The primary clam habitat is located in the free flowing section of the Vermilion River downstream of the dam. While there may be a few found upstream of the dam, the preferred habitat of clams or mussels are in free flowing rivers. Please see the following excerpt on one of the endangered mussel species in the area. "Impoundments" ... can dramatically affect the habitat of freshwater mussels. Impoundments alter flow, temperature, dissolved oxygen, substrate composition (Bogan, 1993). In addition, they can isolate freshwater mussels from their host fishes thereby disrupting the reproductive cycle." (Conservation Assessment, The Wavyrayed Lampmussel, Kevin J. Roe, 1820).

37. Comment: During this past two drought seasons, I notice that while the larger bodies of water held back by the dams did not stagnate, smaller bodies of water downstream and upstream did, and I could literally see the giant swarms of mosquito rising off of these as the summer moved along, and then I imagined if the dams had not been there and the entire river system thru Danville had stagnate bodies of water and what would happen to the mosquito population in the downtown Danville area, which is where I live and I think that would increase the possibility of West Nile and other disease. A huge part of choosing to live in this downtown 17 years ago was based on the water, the dams and the proximity to them. If we have money to spend we need to spend it to enhance the existing reserves of water and to clean up garbage along Logan and reconnect the staircase to the park. At least save the dams.

Response: During severe droughts like the drought of 2012, it is common for water to stagnate in areas that become isolated pools. This phenomena occurred while the dams were in place and could happen again with or without the dams removed. In the areas of the dam pools, there is potential for other isolated pools to develop during times of drought

38. Comment: Furthermore, our future possibilities of Industrial plants that need water, will rely on our water reserves, our forefathers knew the value of water and reserving it. While the purpose of these dams have changed over the years, their vitality has not, we all know that property along the water is a higher valued property, and that water reserves help to increase those values and tax dollars paid as well. We also know that for many years General Motors needed to pump millions of gallons of water from the river daily, and the only thing that made that possible was the dam. They worked on and maintained the dam for many years. Future development will rely on our ability to reserve water. At a recent meeting an engineer from the former General Motors plant described the various work done to the Danville Dam and that he certainly believed the dam was holding water and that it simply needed recapped and that no water was going under it either. All are in agreement that the Ellsworth Dam is in excellent shape. And then a step down of stones behind the two dams would make them safe and continue to add the beauty and water reserve.

Response: Please refer to response 18

39. Comment: Generations of people have fished here, these dams have held back water for around a hundred years now, and the river would be more a creek than a river with their removal. While some dams around the state may not be an important part of the river, these dams certainly are, they have sustained the ability to boat and fish nearly year round. So if the studies show less fish up on this part of the river...I agree, they probably do, but that would simply be because of the hundreds of good fisherman who fish here. People travel from all over to fish in the river, it is rare that I visit the park and there are not several boats out fishing on the 10 mile strip of water the Danville Dam backs up.

Response: The best predictor of what the river would look like without a dam is to view the river in a reach that is not influenced by the dam; either upstream or downstream of the dam. Recreation on the Vermilion River will still be possible with less percentage of opportunities for motorized boating and more opportunities for personal watercraft. There will be times that river levels will be sufficient for motorized boats and they will have the ability to access the reach of the river downstream of the dam. The quality of recreational fish present upstream of the dam site would improve fishing opportunities in that area if the dam were removed. A large stretch of river downstream of the dam would be opened up to personal watercraft users by removal of the dam. The following table shows the results of two fish sampling periods. It can be seen from this data that there are significantly more fish found below the dam than found above the dam.

Sampling	2004 Upstream	2004 Downstream	2011 Upstream	2011 Downstream
#Species	23	37	22	39
Largemouth Bass	1	10	6	1
Smallmouth Bass	0	5	2	8
Spotted Bass	1	0	0	0
Crappie	1	17	0	8
Bluegill	7	38	3	7
Channel Catfish	2	13	0	23
Flathead Catfish	3	6	1	1
Walleye	0	3	0	1
Big Eye Cub	0	1	0	0
River Redhorse	0	2	0	7
Eastern Sand Darter	0	0	0	2
Fish Abundance	258	677	554	1,000

40. Comment: My unprofessional opinion is that these dams should be preserved for future generations, and that while there may be some safety issues, I would like to know how many people drowned in the same stretch of river during the same time frame that the study showed that were not at the dam. It seemed to me that all those

incidents of drowning, while sad and tragic, had circumstances beyond the dam that were equally a part of the tragedies and the modification plan should remedy that. My quality of life will certainly go down once the dams are gone. The river will drop to not much more than a creek. The value of water, and water reserves alone should be enough for us to realize the importance of the dam. Water has been an attraction of men, wealth, health, life, vitality and beauty... The dams are quite beautiful in my opinion and we should enhance their visibility so they can be enjoyed by more people.

Response: There have been 3 deaths directly related to the dam on the Vermilion River and 4 deaths directly related to the dams at the Ellsworth Park Dam. IDNR is unaware of other deaths not related to these structures. Please also refer to responses 32 & 35.

41. Comment: I write to you today to be counted as one against the removal of the Vermilion Dam and the Ellsworth Park Dam. While I feel for the families of the three people that were killed by dams, there are many warning signs to NOT traverse near them. More people get struck and killed by lightning in a year than have drowned on these rivers since the dams have been built. I worry about Asian carp infesting up river. People come from all over the country to fish the dam pools for prize small mouth bass, catfish and walleye, The Asian carp are an invasive species and take over the rivers once the dams are removed, unless the rivers just dry up for lack of rain. I believe the waters on the backside of the dams are a valuable natural resource. I am not saying they don't need some kind of repair, they do. I'm saying leave them and do repair work as needed. The large boulder idea on the downstream side of the dam sounds like a good idea. Say, are there three large concrete bridge pillars for the taking just upstream of the Vermilion Dam? If the dams are removed they will never be put back. The city will lose another source of water, it is a scarce commodity.

Response: Please refer to responses 2, and 15.

42. Comment: As I was collecting my thoughts about this issue, a song came to mind by the Beach Boys from the mid 60's "Wouldn't It Be Nice". Wouldn't it be nice if I was a polished, eloquent speaker so that I could give a passionate talk on saving our dams? But, I'm just a concerned citizens of Danville, born and raised here, who has enjoyed our area by boating, fishing, and just taking in the beauty of the Vermilion River system. I also enjoy researching this areas rich history. The great city of Danville, here in Vermilion County is not here at this spot by accident. The Native Americans of the Potowatomi, Piankashaw, and Kickapoo lived in villages along the banks of the Vermilion and its tributaries for hundreds of years. The rivers supplied the perfect habitat for them to hunt and fish and raise their crops and families. As the

settlers began to move west across the Wabash, the tales of the desirable lands by the “Vermilion” enticed them to settle on the high bluffs overlooking the water. As the population grew, there was a need for a more abundant daily supply of water. By building a few dams, they created what might be called a “bank account” of water which could be used in homes and businesses for steam, for heat and electricity, and for recreation, like that in Ellsworth Park.

Response: The dam on the Vermilion River was constructed to provide steam heat to the residents of Danville, which is no longer of any utilitarian use. The Ellsworth Dam was constructed to provide a swimming spot.

43. Comment: We have the good fortune of having such industrious and forward thinking city leaders. We thank them for our valuable assets like Lake Vermilion, the Fischer Theater, and the Fithian House, among others. Some of the most highly valued land in the city is located around Lake Vermilion. These forefathers took control of their own destiny and made the right choices for their community. Wouldn't it be nice if we had the Middle Fork Reservoir? We would have it today if not for outside interests making the choice for us. Wouldn't it be nice if we had the Uncle Joe Cannon House, or the Wabash or C & EI Depots? Or, wouldn't it be nice if we had state money to restore the Fischer?

Response: The comment is noted but not directly related to the Strategic Planning Study by IDNR Water Resources.

44. Comment: Wouldn't it be nice if there was a better takeout point for canoeists further upstream, instead of directing them so close to the dam? Do you know that in order to get to the ramp at Ellsworth, the canoeists must identify the joining North Fork, make a tough left turn maneuver into the mouth of the river, then paddle upstream to a point that cannot be seen, around two bends, and do this at the end of a long day on the water?

Response: The comment is noted but not directly related to the Strategic Planning Study by IDNR Water Resources.

45. Comments: Wouldn't it be nice if we were in control of our own future and make the right choices for our community, instead of some outside interest? We know this area; we grew up here, and we know what is best. We need to make the right choice to preserve our rich history. Those “bank accounts” or reservoirs of water created by the dams provide many benefits, not only to those in past generations, but today and for generations to come.

Response: “Outside interests” are not determining the future of these dams. That decision will be made by the Danville City Council representing the Danville residents.

46. Comment: These dams have been here longer than the city has been here without the dams. They are part of our heritage, just as the wonderful city parks and pavilions, the walk bridge at Ellsworth Park, Kennekuk and Forest Glen County Parks, and the Fischer and Fithian House. Thank you for Kickapoo Park, which is a perfect example of how Mother Nature can restore things that man has disturbed. Thank you for making the right choices for the citizens of this great city and county.

Response: The comment is noted but not directly related to the Strategic Planning Study by IDNR Water Resources.

47. Comment: The removal of the above dams at this time is not only unnecessary, but, very probably detrimental to the eco-system and the economy of an area encompassing Vermilion County and parts of Champaign County.

Response: The recommended alternatives were selected based on their abilities to meet the goals of public safety, ecosystem restoration and recreation enhancements as well as economics.

48. Comment: Dam removal is unnecessary because: (1) the dams are in good repair, (2) there is a safety issue only to the inexperienced boater/canoeist who might infrequently be in the immediate area for some reason. This is no more potentially unsafe than any other dam/water impoundment where boaters might stray into waters where they are warned about, and (3) there should be no more liability to the local government entities than an abandoned building, which could be the cause of an injury/death to an intruder in spite of posted warning signs.

Response: The Danville Dam is in poor condition and without extensive repairs would likely breach and drain the pooled area. A recent court case in Illinois found that the owner of a dam had some liability from a drowning at the dam even though the dam was on a stretch of river that was not opened to the public, there were signs warning people to not trespass on the dam owners property (the river), there were warning signs indicating the presence of the dam and the people who were in the watercraft had been drinking. Putting up signs does not protect a dam owner from liability for accidents that happen at the dam.

49. Comment: If the said dams were to be removed, the existing pools of water above them would cease to exist. This definitely would be harmful to marine life in those areas, some of which are struggling now. Fishing and boating upstream of the dams would virtually be eliminated. The area tourism agencies have spent dollars nationwide touting this river system (which is the only National Scenic River System in the State of IL) as a draw to the area. This brings many extra dollars into the economy (and the tax coffers) of the surrounding area.

Response: Refer to response 2 and 3.

50. Comment: The City of Danville has recently spent well over \$100,000 of badly needed funds building a boat ramp for access to this immediate area of the rivers. This money will have been wasted, as the ramp would become an access to a strip of gravel if the dams were to be removed.

Response: The percentage of time that the boat ramp will be useable in its existing configuration will be reduced. See the following table:

Frequency Depth Will Be Exceeded

Water Depth on Ramp (ft)	Submerged Length (ft)	Existing	Initial Removal	Long Term Removal
0	0	100%	100% *	78%
1	5	99%	99% *	45%
2	10	85%	59%	27%
3	15	58%	23%	16%
4	20	30%	12%	9%
5	25.8	15%	7%	5%
6	32.5	8%	4%	4%

**Water depth at confluence may limit access to the Vermilion River*

51. Comment: The City has been purchasing property along the river, while pressing the state Legislature to authorize a gambling casino and recreational area along the river. What will be the need for a walking path or other recreational facilities if there is no water in the river?

Response: The same amount of water will flow in the Vermilion River and the North Fork Vermilion River with or without the dam. The removal of a dam does not impact the amount of water flowing in a river. The removal of a dam will remove any permanent pool that may exist behind a dam.

52. Comment: The Middle Fork Audubon Society of Danville, Illinois is a chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society. We have discussed the situation concerning the removal of the low-head dams at Ellsworth Park, and below the Public Safety Building in Danville. Our concern is for the public safety of the citizens who visit the area, for the recreational activities of those citizens, and for the health of the river system itself. The wildlife living in, and around the rivers, will be affected by the removal, or non-removal of the dams. Simple Google searches for information on low-head dams reveals a large consensus of opinions on the subject. The studies indicate that the dams cause water stagnation in the pools above the dam, and that fish and other aquatic species are greatly reduced in these pools. Toxins are also accumulated in the areas above the dams which lowers the waters ability to support species when

compared to free flowing areas below, and far above the dams. In most studies the dams themselves are called “killing machines” because of the dangers they pose to anyone unfortunate enough to be caught going over one of the structures, and many such instances are cited. We are convinced that the removal of the dams will greatly increase the health of the river system, and greatly reduce the dangers to those people using that area of the river. Therefore, the Middle Fork Audubon Society is in favor of the removal of two low-head dams being discussed here.

Response: The comment is noted.

53. Comment: If full removal is decided upon from which side of the river would you work from? Danville Dam – north or south?

Response: If removal is decided, the dam would likely be removed with access coming from south of the Gilbert Street Bridge and accessing the dam from the southwest.

54. Comment: What’s going to happen to the downstream numbers of species if dams are removed?

Response: Those trapped at the dam during low flows would be able to pass through if they desired. The following table shows the results of two fish sampling periods. It can be seen from this data that there are significantly more fish found below the dam than found above the dam.

Sampling	2004 Upstream	2004 Downstream	2011 Upstream	2011 Downstream
#Species	23	37	22	39
Largemouth Bass	1	10	6	1
Smallmouth Bass	0	5	2	8
Spotted Bass	1	0	0	0
Crappie	1	17	0	8
Bluegill	7	38	3	7
Channel Catfish	2	13	0	23
Flathead Catfish	3	6	1	1
Walleye	0	3	0	1
Big Eye Cub	0	1	0	0
River Redhorse	0	2	0	7
Eastern Sand Darter	0	0	0	2
Fish Abundance	258	677	554	1,000

55. Comment: What are the IBI numbers for places where dam was removed?

Response: Most of the dam removals in Illinois have come from the highly populated northeast part of the state, so the subject streams are not quite the quality of the Vermilion River, but a similar response from the fishery at these two dams is expected. Following the Brewster Creek dam removal, the IBI more than doubled in four years, going from 12 in 2004 to 26 in 2008. The number of species also doubled,

going from 5 in 2004 to 11 in 2007. At Hoffman Dam, IBI averaged 14.3 with 7.8 species prior to dam removal. In 2012 just 64 days after dam removal, the IBI score was 24 with 22 species. So, the river experienced a 10-point IBI score increase with the number of fish species almost tripling in just over 2 months after the dam was removed. At the Seavey Ditch Dam, IBI increased 60% from 20 to 32, and the number of fish species increased by 55%. At Ferson Creek Dam, IBI increased from 36 to 39, fish species increased from 12 to 18, and fish abundance increased from 47 to 386. Woolen Mills Dam was removed from the Milwaukee River in Wisconsin in 1988. Catch rates for smallmouth bass increased from 0.3 per hour in 1988 to 29.6 per hour in 1993. Most of this increase came from successful reproduction and recruitment, rather than fish movement into the area. At the same time, there was a 94% decrease in common carp numbers. Prior to dam removal in 1988, two stations within the impounded reach had IBI scores of 24 and 30. By 1993, these two stations scored 52 and 55. The literature is full of studies with similar dramatic improvements in stream quality following dam removal. The investigation resulted in no found studies showing a decline in stream quality or fish population integrity following a dam removal.

56. Comment: I have come here to express my concerns about the removal of the dams which many feel is indeed a solution for safety to the public. Where I feel there are many more problems that are facing Danville, IL and should be addressed way before the potential of the dam removals.

Response: While there may be other concerns that need to be addressed in Danville, this is a limited opportunity, using the Governor's Dam Removal Initiative funding, for Danville to face this public safety concern with assistance.

57. Comment: I have visited the sites where these dams are and have discovered that not only will the fishery be in jeopardy, but so will a lot of other important things like habitat loss for many species. In a river system many aquatic plants and animals live there. Like a human being our homes provide shelter, place of safety, and a place we can call home. This is such the fact on this issue as well. For over 60 years these dams have been in place and created homes for the crawfish, a food source for the Smallmouth Bass. This fish is prized by many fishermen due to its fighting abilities to give a thrill in catching one. The Smallmouth Bass is a species that just can't thrive in any old habitat. Here in Vermilion County, we should take this into consideration. Rocks, logs, and shade trees that hang over water make good shelter for a smallmouth. The crawfish not only is food source for the Smallmouth bass but for the catfish, bluegill, pumpkin seeds, rock bass, and the list goes on. As for other animals and aquatic species they too would lose all the comforts of having a home. We have the minnow, and there are many minnows in this classification, I myself

can't name them, but know minnows are tiny fish that can grow and will need shelter from bigger fish to survive the "food chain." Plants are another living thing that live in rivers and although I am not qualified to identify them, I know that they too can be negatively affected. The biggest and most obvious reason is lack of water of where the plant may be living now to where the level of the water will have ended up after the removal of the dams.

Response: Vegetation, crawfish and many other food source species thrive in a river system. There is also increased dissolved oxygen levels and reduced summer water temperatures which all promote a healthier habitat for native species.

58. Comment: The purpose of these dams was no doubt used for holding water back to obtain a deeper pool of water for use. While we all know that once the dams are removed there will be a change of depth to the river system. However, what will happen will be an influx of shallow pools of water that will create islands and sandbars with fish being affected by water depth that in the winter may harm this fishery by means of no deep pools to go for shelter. Winter causes havoc on everybody here and without a doubt, havoc on wildlife. It's here that we need to have our eyes open to what could and may happen to our natural resource. With that being said in itself, water, is a valuable resource that we don't want to put in jeopardy for us or our friends that swim up and down the rivers.

Response: While deep pool of 8 feet or more are imperative for pond and lakes, fish do not need as deep of pools for flowing water for winter survival because the water contains more dissolved oxygen. Also, please refer to response 29 for more information on removal pool depths.

59. Comment: We, at the Illini Bass club know the pain and sorrow that may be lingering from the victim's families who have lost their loved ones over the dams, for we too have lost loved ones and friends from the club and have sorrow as well. The fish and the aquatic plants and animals can't speak for themselves so I am asking on behalf of the club to reconsider the removal of the 2 dams.

Response: The recommended alternatives were selected based on their abilities to meet the goals of public safety, ecosystem restoration and recreation enhancements as well as economics.

Responses to comments made after the open house on 4-30-2013 by email

60. Comment:

Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 3:32 PM

To: DNR.Dwrn

Subject: removal of the dams.

I am in favor of the removal of both dams. I am friends with the brother of a drowning victim @ Ellsworth Dam. Although it happened many years ago it was and remains a tragedy. The dams no longer serve a purpose, so it is time for them to be removed. Let the rivers flow as nature intended. My husband and I kayak the area and many other rivers and enjoy the serenity. I am sorry only a few came last that are in favor of removal. The presentation was very well done and the questions I had were answered. I am sorry Anne Wells and her group were so rude and uncaring. I read in the News Gazette the comments that were made.

Response: Your comments are documented. No response is necessary.

61. Comment:

Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 9:42 AM

To: DNR.Dwrn

Subject: dam removal on Danville

I fully support the state & city in their effort to remove the dams in this area. They have served the purpose they were intended for. Let the rivers revert back to their original state. I am a river fisherman and love to wade & canoe the local waters. Remove the dams! The sooner the better!

Response: Your comments are documented. No response is necessary.

62. Comment:

Sent: Sunday, May 05, 2013 5:20 PM

To: DNR.Dwrn

Subject: Danville and Ellsworth Park Dam removals

Dear Sirs,

I was in attendance at the informational meeting in Danville, and was appalled at the disrespectful way several others in attendance behaved. The information from DNR experts, engineers, and other scheduled presenters was given in a very professional and factual manner. Overwhelming evidence indicates that the benefits of dam removal far outweigh the benefits of doing nothing to those crumbling structures. If an engineered removal plan is not adopted and followed, it is clear to me -as I paddle my canoe near those structures- that natural forces will eventually remove those obsolete dams in a less expedient and less desirable way. I sincerely hope that the

rude interruptions (lacking in factual information to support their position) from the group opposing dam removal will not turn you from the appropriate decision to remove both of those low-head dams. I look forward to the day when those portions of the Vermilion River watershed can run freely without unnatural impoundments.

Response: Your comments are documented. No response is necessary.

63. Comment:

Sent: Monday, May 06, 2013 10:20 AM

To: DNR.Dwrn

Cc: Cattoor, Wes; Thomas, Trent

Subject: Danville Dam Removal Comments

Attached are comments regarding the proposed dam removals in Vermilion County.

Thank you.

Mr. Juhl,

On behalf of Prairie River Network, Illinois' only statewide river conservation and clean water advocacy organization, I am writing in support of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' recommendation to remove the Ellsworth Park Dam and modify the Danville Dam in Vermilion County. The proposed modifications will restore a portion of the Vermilion River system to a free-flowing condition, improving habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, enhancing recreation opportunities, and improving public safety. We support the recommended alternatives, as they also minimize initial impacts associated with dam removal (i.e., sediment release) and contribute to the long-term viability of a natural river system. The strategic removal of these two dams holds positive implications for the Vermilion River system, including Illinois' only designated National Wild and Scenic River, the Middle Fork. The project will remove barriers to fish passage, allowing downstream populations to access headwater refugia and high quality spawning habitats upstream. The removals will also allow for seasonal variations in depth and flow which will not only improve aquatic habitat, but also improve water quality in the formerly impounded sections. In addition to restoring a more natural flow regime and improving aquatic habitat, the removals will also significantly improve public safety, and enhance recreation opportunities on the river, making it easier and safer for people to enjoy these rivers. We support the Department's recommendation to remove the Ellsworth Park Dam and modify the Danville Dam, as it presents a unique opportunity to restore one of Illinois' most prized river systems. These defunct dams have been a topic of discussion for over a decade; we are extremely grateful that the State of Illinois and the Department of Natural Resources supports their removal, and have devoted the necessary resources to move forward.

Response: Your comments are documented. No response is necessary.

64. Comment:

Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 2:48 PM

To: DNR.Dwrn

Subject: Danville & Ellsworth Park Dams

I have fished by wading, canoe and kayaking the Middle Fork River from Potomac to the Salt Fork River and on to the Gilbert Street, Route 1 bridge. I have fished the North Fork River from Rossville, IL to just south of the new boat ramp at Ellsworth Park where the North Fork meets the combined waters of the Middle Fork and Salt Fork rivers and on to the Gilbert Street, Route 1 bridge. I have fished the Salt Fork River from northwest of Fairmount past Ellsworth Park area and on to the Gilbert Street, Route 1 bridge. From the Gilbert Street bridge I have fished these three combined rivers to Forest Glen. The dam areas are special places to me because they are unique in several ways. They maintain water above them and with the hot dry weather seeming to be more the norm the last several summers; most of the rivers have very little water in them. There are few places in any of them that you can canoe at all without walking and dragging your boat. The dam head waters also hold fish. The dam below the jail holds the largest amount of small mouth bass in the county in my opinion. During the peak of the 2012 drought, Kickapoo Landing was still renting canoes for trips on the Vermilion River with only occasions of canoes dragging bottom. Below is one of many nice small mouths I caught above the dam last December of 2012. (*See attached file: Small mouth above jail damn.jpg*)

I have caught several species above and below this dam. I have seen river otters there, eagles, red fox, deer etc.... My river fishing experience has been a life long passion and a peaceful, relaxing refuge. I continue to fish miles of open free rivers in our area but the sum of them has not equaled the fishing at our dams. And these dams make up a small percentage of the river miles but a disproportionate large percent of the quality fish for me. Large small mouth bass and walleye are unmatched by my experience in all the miles of open river I fish. I'm fortunate to be physically fit and still able to wade and kayak fish many miles of the three rivers in the Danville area. There are several local fishermen that are not but they can still access this quality fishery in the Ellsworth River area with the help of the water access created by the jail dam. I will go to the Ellsworth Dam occasionally at lunch for a break. The sound of the water running over the dam and the nice variety of wild life present in the dam area is a nice stress reliever in the middle of the day. There are usually others there enjoying the dam as well on both sides of the river. We are fortunate to live in a city where nature's beauty is enhanced by the dam so close to town. These two dams offer quality of life to people such as myself and others who love the outdoors and its peacefulness and beauty. We are not allowed to fish at the other two dams in the

Danville area (The Lake Vermilion Dam and the Water Company's smaller dam south of the Lake Vermilion Dam on the North Fork). Those who enjoy and fish the dam areas in Danville will effectively no longer have that opportunity if the Ellsworth and the jail dams are removed.

Response: The removal of the dams does not eliminate motorized boat or bank fishing opportunities in the area.

65. Comment: The proposed Middle Fork Reservoir project was scrapped due to the Blue Darter minnow by the state in the late 70's or early 80's and we have a nice small lake Mingo in its place. This created the Wild and Scenic Middle Fork River area that is federally protected. It is so low and without water in most summers that it can't be canoed. We have enough dried up rivers in the summer and fall here that we need some areas with water.

Response: Refer to comment above

66. Comment: Safety is a concern of most of us. Being a father, I can understand the pain and suffering caused by the loss of a child or loved one. None of us want to see anyone harmed but we cannot eliminate every danger. One mans danger in this case adversely effects a large group of citizens who enjoy the areas created by the dams. We could make the same case against the automobile and we would all be walking. The list goes on and on...

Response: The comment is noted.

67. Comment: My life experiences on the rivers in this area indicate removal of the dams will not improve fishing, canoeing or safety. We have had drowning in the area in the rivers and local lakes during regular flow and floods (no dams involved). The dam helps give opportunities for watercraft use in dry months of the year. More often than not that has been the case in the last few years and by July the canoe traffic on all the rivers has come to a stop. The local outdoors men joke over the years, what has become that the Middle Fork Scenic River is a dry and dusty trail by July. If the jail dam is removed there will be very little watercraft use at all in the dry months and this area will match the other rivers areas.

Response: Please refer to responses 3 and 5.