

ED GONZALEZ

COUNCIL MEMBER ★ DISTRICT H



May 17, 2011

Colonel Christopher W. Sallese
Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

RE: White Stallion Energy Center Permit Application No. SWG-2009-00945

Dear Colonel Sallese,

I write to ask that the Army Corps of Engineers require an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of White Stallion Energy Center in its application for its 404 permit, permit number SWG-2009-00945.

I echo Mayor Parker's concern that the proposed White Stallion Energy Center (White Stallion) located just 20 miles outside the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria non-attainment region will put the City of Houston at greater risk for additional bad air days and put at risk the investment that local industry has made in cleaning up our air. Houston's industries have heavily invested both time and money into clean air initiatives and tangible steps to improve the quality of our air. Allowing such a large new source of nitrogen oxide (which is a key component of ozone), mercury, dioxin, sulfur dioxide and lead from White Stallion to be emitted so closely to this area should be examined through the EIS process. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) received a letter from the EPA dated September 29, 2010 wherein they expressed grave reservations that White Stallion's proposed permit did not adequately demonstrate that its emissions would "not cause or contribute to violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone."

Further, I understand that White Stallion has proposed to fill adjacent wetlands in order to complete its proposed project. Wetlands serve as great buffers for hurricanes and major storms, it is important to look at the impact White Stallion would have by dredging and filling them.

As a final point, it is my understanding that the proposed White Stallion Energy Center will require multiple coal-barge trips per day, up and down the Colorado River; necessitating dredging and widening the river. This unusually high commercial boat traffic is likely to erode the unprotected shoreline and eventually lead to the destruction of recreational and subsistence fishing.

I have copied Carl Edlund and Larry Starfield of the EPA, so that they are also aware of these concerns.

ED GONZALEZ

COUNCIL MEMBER ★ DISTRICT H



Thank you for your consideration, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ed Gonzalez
Vice Mayor Pro-Tem
Council Member, District H

cc:

Mr. Steven Walls
Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-RE
Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

Mr. Carl Edlund
Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

Mr. Larry Starfield
Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202

Mr. Mark Vickery
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
12100 Park 35 Circle, Building F
Austin, TX 78753