April 22, 2020

202 Lawton Road

Marietta, OH 45750

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Huntington District

502 Eighth St.

Huntington, WV 25701-2070

RE: LRH 2020 – 293 – OHR

 I am writing concerning the application for a barge offloading facility of well waste from oil and gas wells to be located just south of Marietta, OH, on the Ohio River.

 I am a resident of the Marietta area and have serious concerns about this proposed facility and the timing of it. The application which I saw online addressed some endangered species and some other issues but mentioned nothing about the health implications of this facility. Well waste is known for containing toxic chemicals, many of which are not disclosed by the companies performing hydraulic fracturing. There is also evidence of radioactivity of this well waste for shale gas wells.

 I did not see any notification of this proposal in our local newspaper, the Marietta Times. As I understand it, this is required of such proposals.

 The Ohio River is the major source of drinking water for five million people, whose health may be impacted by this facility. The opening of the proposed facility is likely to stimulate additional oil and gas waste disposal in the Marietta area, and waste may be transported to this area from other distant oil and gas wells in Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. There are also zsix endangered species potentially impacted by the construction of the facility.

 The application for this facility comes at a time when most public officials and citizens are directing their attention to the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic that is at its peak in this area. Review of this application should at least be deferred until adequate attention can be made to its thorough review. A first step would be extend the comment period for this application.

Sincerely yours,

George Banziger