



DCD (SP02)

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

June 19, 1997

Marketing and  
Regulatory  
Programs

Ms. Rosetta Virgilio, NEPA Coordinator  
Office of State Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike, 3rd Floor  
Rockville, MD 20852

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Dear Ms. Virgilio:

4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737

This is to provide formal notification that we have canceled our plans for a cumulative impact study of the Edwards Aquifer ecosystem, as proposed in our letter of October 3, 1996. Our decision to cancel the proposed study was made soon after the transmittal of our letter, and all who called or wrote in response to the letter were advised telephonically of our cancellation of the proposal at the time of their contact.

In addition, we would like to clarify information in our original letter about the lack of USDA studies which have addressed cumulative impacts on the Edwards Aquifer ecosystem. Since we issued the letter, we have become aware of two such studies. The first of these, in March 1996, was the "Biological Evaluation of USDA Farmer Assistance and Rural Development Programs." The second of these was issued in April 1997, and is entitled "Biological Evaluation of USDA Conservation and Commodity Programs under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996."

Subsequent to the transmittal of our original letter, we also have participated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the development of a resource package for the Edwards Aquifer. We have no plans at this time, however, to pursue our earlier goal of a comprehensive cumulative impact study of the Edwards Aquifer ecosystem. We appreciate the interest many of you have shown in our proposal, and invite you to contact Mr. Harold Smith of our staff at 301-734-8565 if you have any question about this cancellation.

Sincerely,

*Harold T. Smith*  
For Carl Bausch  
Deputy Director  
Environmental Analysis and Documentation  
Policy and Program Development

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