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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

JIM CANNON

SUBJECT:

Status Report: Phosphate Mining in Central Florida

You asked for a report on the status of the CEQ investigation of the phosphate mining problem in Central Florida.

Attached is a letter from Chairman Russell Peterson to you on the situation.

In brief, Russ reports:

1. The problem is being studied by an inter-agency team led by EPA, and including CEQ, Interior, Agriculture, and the Corps of Engineers.
2. An advisory group of local and state officials and representatives of industry and environmental groups has been set up to work with the inter-agency team.
3. There will be no moratorium on the current mining activities during the period of the study.

It is my understanding that the preparation of the impact statement will take from 12-15 months.

Attachment

cc: Dick Cheney
Ron Nessen

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

April 23, 1976

Dear Mr. President:

At your request, the Council on Environmental Quality has reviewed the environmental issues surrounding the current and projected phosphate development in central Florida. I met personally with Dave Lindsay, who first brought the matter to your attention, and my staff has visited the central Florida area.

Over the past several weeks, together with officials of the Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Agriculture, we have held a series of discussions with representatives of the State of Florida, the Counties of Sarasota and Manatee, the City of Sarasota, and the phosphate industry to hear their views and concerns.

On the basis of these meetings, and from our other discussions with the federal agencies, we have learned that there is, and will continue to be, considerable direct federal involvement in the phosphate activity of central Florida. Approximately eight new phosphate mining operations are now being proposed or contemplated that will, over the next several years, require permits from the Corps of Engineers and/or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Most, if not all of these federal actions will have potentially significant environmental impacts in central Florida, not only in the counties in which phosphate mining will take place, but also in adjacent jurisdictions outside the mining area. The major potential regional environmental impacts are air and water pollution, diminished groundwater supplies, and radiation from the mined material. The cumulative effect of these impacts on the central Florida region has not been adequately evaluated, although federal and state agencies are conducting, or planning, a number of studies on various specific impacts.

We have concluded, therefore, that the most useful and manageable way to analyze the cumulative, interrelated impacts of the present and proposed phosphate development in central Florida is through the environmental impact statement process. Accordingly, we have been working with

federal agencies on a detailed approach to a comprehensive regional impact statement that will rely on new information as well as on existing studies of phosphate development in central Florida. EPA Region IV, headquartered in Atlanta, has agreed to take the lead in preparing the statement for all federal agencies. It will work closely with a steering committee made up of representatives from EPA, the Corps of Engineers, and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. The steering committee will be chaired by the Council on Environmental Quality, and advisors to the committee will include representatives from the State of Florida, local governments, the phosphate industry, and Florida environmental groups.

This environmental analyses process will not establish any moratorium on existing phosphate mining in the central Florida region. All mining already approved will also continue. Any local and state mining approval processes can also continue and will not be legally delayed by the federal study.

Consistent with our own policy we shall insure that the impact statement addresses the major federal actions and the reasonable policy alternatives available in the future. We shall make every possible effort to see that the document produced will assist the federal planning and decision-making process and that it will provide members of the public with the best possible information on matters of concern to them.

Respectfully,



Russell W. Peterson
Chairman

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1976

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JIM CANNON

FROM:

JIM CONNOR *JEC*

SUBJECT:

Letter from David Breed Lindsay

The attached letter was returned in the President's outbox with the following notation:

"Status of CEQ investigation?"

Please follow-up with appropriate action.

cc: Dick Cheney

Attachment:

April 16, 1976 letter from
David Breed Lindsay

*(original to Cannon
we received from Messen)*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1976

MR PRESIDENT:

The attached is for your information.
It will be handled in a routine manner
unless you indicate otherwise.

Jim Connor

*Status of C.C.Q
investigation?*

DAVID BREED LINDSAY

16 April 1976

Dear Mr. President,

Your thoughtfulness in sending me the set of cuff links with the Presidential seal is deeply appreciated. Together with the inscribed and signed photographs taken during our meeting in Sarasota, the cuff links will become heirlooms of the Lindsay family.

It was a particular pleasure to have the opportunity of attending church with you and Mrs. Ford, and the occasion was made even more memorable for me by the surprised looks on the faces of my youngest son, Edward, who was singing in the choir, and my two grandsons, David and Stewart, who were in the congregation.

In my 28 years as editor of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune I have never seen more appreciation of an official act than has been evidenced by the people of this area for your decision to order the Council on Environmental Quality to investigate the need for an interdisciplinary study of the effects of phosphate strip mining and phosphoric acid/uranium processing on the Florida West Coast.

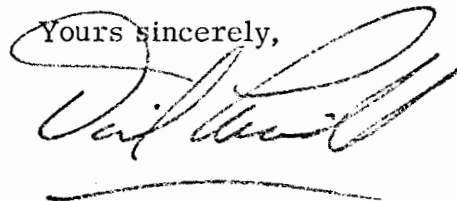
I met with Governor Peterson and his staff immediately after the private meeting with you and Secretary Rumsfeld, and was delighted at their responsiveness and professional concern.

I am sure I can speak for the people in our circulation area when I express my respect and appreciation for your immediate appraisal and action on this issue of regional health and safety, and of national strategic consequence.

I too shall certainly look forward, as you said in your letter, to a future meeting in Sarasota or on the Monterey Peninsula.

With warmest personal regards and with good wishes for continued Campaign '76 success.

Yours sincerely,



The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.