

To: E. Environmental Protection Agency of United States of America

RE: United States Geological Survey Data 1955 thru 1997 - 43 years. (USGS)

Was this USGS data provided to each of you for summaries as to where to start and statistics to prove farmers are using less nitrogen and fertilizers?

USGS data proves nitrate/nitrogen in Mississippi River to Gulf has been decreasing at rate of 17,000 metric ton per year since 1983.

USGS data also states flow of Mississippi River has been changing in last 30 years. (Engineering changes for flood control had added to the flow.)

This decline in nitrate content cannot be attributed to Public Owned Treatment Works (POTW) with increase in human population, increase in wildlife population and increased precipitation in Mississippi River Basin area. all sources of nitrate.

With few exceptions all POTW's have no restrictions/requirements for either treating or reducing nitrate release. These required to treat ammonia simply convert it to nitrate and discharge in river.

Your EPA May, 1999 report focused narrowly on nutrients from agriculture as the cause of hypoxia in Gulf area and offer nutrient based solutions; including 20% reduced nitrogen use in Corn Belt and a 5 million acre wetland creation. Your report found no economic damage from hypoxia but do not examine important factors about complexity of Mississippi River system, yet suggest that increased regulations of "Corn Belt" Agriculture will erode hypoxic condition.

A better approach is to acknowledge and work to understand the complexities of hypoxia. Farmers today are producing more crops with less fertilizer - meaning, they are more efficient and leaving less nitrogen in the environment.

Published fact Clinton/Bore Government went all SW Minnesota straight down to Des Moines, Iowa and straight West for "wetlands". Is this 5 million acre request of "wetland" perhaps an excuse to authorize such?

Check with Climatologist Erling Røyer, Iowa State University. Earth tilts from one off center to other over many years and were now in natural curve of "wet age with warmer temperature. All naturally (Too much "wetland" and too much rain, 24" rain in Adairworth County, IA), could "flood" quite an area and "overflow" in wetlands are known fact to "washout"; 33 inches of rain here since approx. 1950 helped plummet (check!) Please reconsider / acknowledge / POTW's / increased populations - human & wildlife and increased flow of Mississippi River in basin area.

cc: Sen. Grassley and Harkin, Gutnecht
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