

September 5, 2007

Re: File Number: 07-11-0062-P

Dear Michigan Department of Environmental Quality,

I understand that Jean Klock Park has nothing to do with Harbor Shores' permit application for the Paw Paw River irrigation intake pipe, coffer dam and well. However, I must raise the issue of Jean Klock Park but am approaching it from a practical and highly relevant standpoint as Jean Klock Park is the key desire of the developers.

Harbor Shores has said that without acquiring Jean Klock Park they will not build this golf course. The MDEQ may not have authority on whether or not the park can be developed but the National Park Service, and the Berrien County Circuit Court does. The park is protected under the Land and Water Conservation Act and a 2004 Consent Judgment. The National Park Service is reviewing the conversion proposal for the park and Harbor Shores must file for an amendment to the Consent Judgment before any further development can take place within the park.

In the meantime, an enormous amount of state taxpayer's money is going into the additional and ongoing permit process when there is no guarantee Harbor Shores will be allowed to utilize Jean Klock Park for the golf course. If further permits are pulled more of the environment will be razed and destroyed such as the Golf Road ravine, its climax forest and hundreds, in not over a thousand other trees have been. And in the end, if Harbor Shores backs out because they weren't able to secure the park, obscene amounts of time, public tax dollars, and the natural environment will have been squandered for nothing; leaving behind a barren landscape as a reminder of the State's rush to approve this permit. I would hope that the DEQ would not decide to waste those valuable human, financial, and natural resources based on speculation and assumption that this project will get final approval from the NPS and county court.

I strongly urge, and highly recommend, that the DEQ table the decision for this permit application for the Harbor Shores golf course proposal until the National Park Service makes a decision and the Berrien Count Circuit Court makes its determination.

In addition I am greatly concerned about the disturbance of soil and sediments in and along the Paw Paw River and the possibility of contamination depositing further downstream. Due to the upstream location of the former Aircraft Components Super Fund Site and other industrial contamination in the area of the golf course proposal, I also strongly urge and recommend that MDEQ and USACE require an Environmental Impact Statement before any further consideration is given to this permit application.

Respectfully,

Carol Drake  
Sodus, Michigan

