

RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN
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<http://www.house.gov/frelinghuysen>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3011

April 17, 2008

COMMITTEE:
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND
RELATED AGENCIES—RANKING MEMBER

DEFENSE

SELECT INTELLIGENCE
OVERSIGHT PANEL

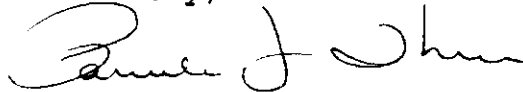
Mr. Kevin Dietsch
20 Blackwell Avenue
Harding, New Jersey 07960

Dear Mr. Dietsch:

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter Congressman Frelinghuysen recently received from Marvin E. Moriarty, Regional Director, U.S. Department of the Interior, in response to his inquiry regarding your concerns with the artificial turf ball fields proposed for Harding Township. I believe you will find Mr. Moriarty's comments interesting.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Thievon
Constituent Services Manager

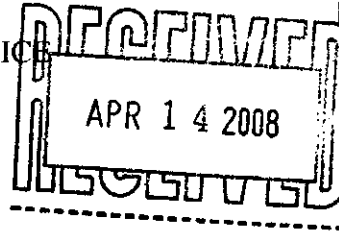
Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R5/NWRS/035742

APR - 8 2008

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Member, United States House
of Representatives
30 Schuyler Place, Second Floor
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Dear Mr. Frelinghuysen:

Thank you for your letter of March 17, 2008, regarding Mr. Kevin Dietsch's concerns about potential health and environmental issues with the installation of artificial turf playing fields just upstream of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Harding Township, New Jersey. Mr. Dietsch enumerates a diverse list of contaminants (hydrocarbons, phthalates, and heavy metals) that are associated with and can leach from artificial turf and its required substrate. Some of these pollutants are bioaccumulative, some carcinogenic, and most could have negative effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems if present in high enough concentrations.

After careful review of the information provided, and additional research by the Refuge Watershed Biologist, we believe Mr. Dietsch's concerns have merit. Such concerns have been raised in numerous other park projects across the country, and the installation of artificial turf fields in some locales has been stalled pending a full evaluation of these and other associated potential issues. The Great Swamp NWR lies within the same watershed and is located approximately two miles from the proposed project site. Since the refuge ultimately receives drainage from the site, there is a potential to be impacted by a change of land use.

While decisions involved with this project will be made at the local level, the refuge will continue to work with its watershed towns and other conservation partners in preserving the ecological integrity of the Great Swamp.

Thank you for your consideration of potential refuge concerns regarding this project. If you have questions or require more information, please contact Anthony D. Léger, Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, at 413-253-8550.

Sincerely,

 Acting

Marvin E. Moriarty
Regional Director

Copy to your Washington Office