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LETTER

Yazoo Pumps Project

To the Editor:

The only thing missing from your Nov. 6 editorial “Yazoo Pumps: They’re Back!” is the creepy music that accompanies the cinematic return of the ghoul. Over the course of my 24 years at the Environmental Protection Agency, I never reviewed a proposal that would do more damage to the environment than the Yazoo Pumps project in the Mississippi Delta.

Wetlands reduce flood peaks. Draining them to prevent floods is like bingeing on ice cream to lose weight. The Yazoo Pumps would be an endless burden on America’s taxpayers: nearly \$200 million to build and millions more every year thereafter for operation and maintenance, energy costs and crop support payments.

The flooding problem in the Yazoo watershed can be addressed with minor flood control measures to protect houses and roads and reforestation of wetter areas. This would improve habitat and water quality and reflect the lessons learned from relying on pumps and levees in New Orleans.

John Meagher

Fairfax Station, Va., Nov. 9, 2007

The writer is the retired director of the Wetlands Division, Environmental Protection Agency.

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