MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

April 15, 2011

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 80
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

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Honorable R. D. James
Civilian/Civil Engineer
New Madrid, Missouri

*Honorable Wm. Clifford Smith
Civilian/Civil Engineer
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Statement of the Mississippi River Commission

Peer-Reviewed Science and Engineering for Outlets and Diversions

The Mississippi River Commission has witnessed and received passionate testimony regarding the many water resource challenges in the lower Mississippi Valley. Reliable deep draft navigation channels, storm surge and riverine flood protection, sediment transport, freshwater diversions, dredging and disposal of dredged material, coastal restoration, and environmental sustainability characterize the complexities facing the stewards of the region's water resources. None of these challenges are mutually exclusive; rather they are interdependent.

In order to successfully address and balance the demands of the challenges facing this Commission in the areas of navigation, flood control, environmental sustainability, and coastal restoration, we must use non-partisan, science-based methods capable of ensuring sound and objective decisions.

This Commission has heard calls for the use models of various kinds to solve the multitude of intricacies involved in managing the water resources of the nation. Our experience with modeling--whether physical, numerical, or computer--provides valuable insight and better understanding of those challenges. However, we recognize our modeling efforts must facilitate timely decisions and ultimate action on proposed outlets or diversions.

To achieve sustainable solutions, we must assure that we remain an internationally-respected entity that is thoroughly grounded in both the theoretical and the experiential concepts of hydraulics and represented by a broad range of experience in the development and execution of models that account for sediment and water movements and impacts. The Mississippi River Commission intends to leverage panels of nationally and internationally recognized experts in fields associated with river management to aid in the review and understanding of highly technical

* designee
** nominated

Since 1879, the seven-member Presidentially appointed Mississippi River Commission has developed and matured plans for the general improvement of the Mississippi River from the Head of Passes to the Headwaters. The Mississippi River Commission brings critical engineering representation to the drainage basin, which impacts 41% of the United States and includes 1.25 million square miles, over 250 tributaries, 31 states, and 2 Canadian provinces.

Listening, Inspecting, Partnering and Engineering since 1879

issues, with the ultimate aim of delivering concrete and workable solutions and projects. The Mississippi River Commission will continue to balance relationships among the navigation, flood control, and coastal restoration needs of the region.

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