

Dear Ms. Andria:

Thank you for your remarks before the Mississippi River Commission during our public meeting held on August 17, 2001, in St. Louis, Missouri. In your statement you discussed the regulatory permit process and your perception that the Corps shows bias.

The Corps strives to implement its regulatory program to the regulated public fairly and impartially, while providing protection to the aquatic environment. The Corps' regulatory program considers the public interest in both the protection and use of water resources and also considers the full range of environmental and socio-economic factors during permit evaluation. The Corps solicits public comments and considers them in their decisions. It is important that these comments be specific for appropriate consideration during the permit evaluation process. Other laws, regulations, Executive Orders, guidance letters, and memorandums of agreements with other agencies are considered during the processing of applications for permits. The Corps' policy is to provide applicants with a timely and balanced decision that reflects the public interest and application of pertinent laws and regulations.

The Corps will continue its efforts to meet the flood control, navigation, and environmental needs in the Mississippi Valley. Our success is largely attributable to a strong partnership with local interests and groups such as yours.

-2-

Thank you again for your participation in the St. Louis hearing. The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U. S. Army
President, Mississippi River
Commission