

Dear Mr. Babin:

Thank you for your comments during the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission held in Morgan City, Louisiana, on August 23, 2001. During your presentation you read a resolution from the Council of Bayou Chambers endorsing the deepening of the channels of the Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black to a depth of 35 feet.

The Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black Reconnaissance Study is scheduled for completion in September 2001. In this study the Corps of Engineers is addressing the feasibility of deepening the navigation project to depths of up to 35 feet, based on navigation benefits. If the conclusions of this preliminary analysis are that a deeper channel is economically justified and environmentally acceptable, the Corps would proceed to the more detailed feasibility studies to further develop the plan.

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 Designee, Mississippi
River Commission