

Dear Mr. Bearss:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on March 7, 2002, and your ideas for reducing potential damages during construction of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control project.

Corps personnel recognized early in the project stage that construction in a heavily urbanized area, in close proximity to residential and commercial buildings, would be difficult. The Corps of Engineers, or more appropriately the contractors hired to conduct the work, are taking all feasible and prudent methods to reduce the potential of impact from construction.

The New Orleans District is in close consultation with interested parties to resolve the historic preservation issues relating to construction in the uptown area. On May 15 and 16, 2002, New Orleans District personnel met with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the State Historic Preservation Office, and interested neighborhood and local government organizations. Coordination is now underway to finalize the draft Memorandum of Agreement developed during that meeting.

The Commission appreciates 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