

Dear Mr. Berry:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Vicksburg Mississippi, on April 4, 2001, in which you provided a progress report of industries located at the Greenpointe Industrial Park and requested that the Corps of Engineers continue monitoring the east bank of the river adjacent to the Greenpointe Industrial Park to maintain a swift water docking facility. You also voiced your Foundation's objection to steps being taken to move the mat casting plant from the Greenville harbor area.

The purpose of the Mississippi River Channel Improvement project is to provide safe and dependable navigation and flood control benefits throughout the lower Mississippi River. As a part of this project, the Corps periodically surveys the Mississippi River channel to monitor the movement of sand deposits and changes in channel alignment. This information is used to ensure project purposes are being maintained. While the Corps cannot ensure that a swift water harbor area will be maintained along your property, the Vicksburg District will continue to monitor the sand deposits in the area as part of its ongoing channel surveillance program.

In January of this year, after consideration of findings by Management Analysis, Inc., the Memphis District Commander requested approval from the Mississippi Valley Division Commander to close the Greenville Engineer Yard (GEY), thereby physically transferring personnel and equipment of the Greenville-based mat loading unit to the Ensley Engineer Yard located in Memphis. The Memphis District requested that this action be taken to improve operational efficiency and reduce overall program costs. The Corps mat casting field, an unmanned facility also located in Greenville, still has a large inventory of concrete mat that will be used to supply revetment needs for at least the next 5 to 8 years. The District's request to close GEY has been reviewed by

the Division staff. However, at this time, the Division has not approved the request as we continue to evaluate the input we have received before making a final decision. The Memphis District staff will contact you when a decision is made.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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