

Dear Dr. Black:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you discussed the working relationship of various interests in the local community and the Corps of Engineers; the hardships that flooding causes in East Prairie and surrounding communities; and the need to work together to get the truth out about the Corps project and its benefit to citizens of the area.

The Commission is well aware of the impact flooding has on the lives and livelihood of East Prairie and adjacent rural communities. We recognize the efforts of area residents and your organization to make life better for themselves and the entire community. We also appreciate your input and support of the Corps in our efforts to formulate the best overall project for the area and to comply fully with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Commission acknowledges your opinion that local residents and local, state, and Federal organizations and agencies must work together to formulate and implement a flood damage reduction project for the good of the people and the natural resources of the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway area. We continue to work on ways to get the story out about Corps projects to provide a more balanced and objective view of our work.

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Thank you again for your presentation. 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