

Dear Mr. Bock:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Tiptonville, Tennessee, on August 19, 2002. In your statement you expressed your district's satisfaction with the length of time it took the Corps of Engineers to publish the final revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the St. Johns Bayou-New Madrid Floodway project. You expressed frustration with the many delays as a result of requests for extensions from other agencies. You also expressed your district's support of the recommended plan with your stated caveats and provided input on how your district believes the plan should be implemented.

The Corps regrets that local interests' concerns often seem to be in conflict with concerns of outside interests. However, we are committed to developing projects that sustain the environment while providing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

In regard to your input on project implementation, the Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are committed to full coordination with your district and other stakeholders throughout the implementation process.

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

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
President Designee, Mississippi  
River Commission