

Dear Mr. Bock:

Thank you for your comments before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Caruthersville, Missouri, on April 2, 2001. In your statement you expressed your satisfaction that the New Madrid Floodway project is moving again. You also noted your support of the request by the City of New Madrid for assistance with maintenance and safety issues along the New Madrid riverfront.

On April 11, 2001, the Memphis District team met with representatives from St. Johns Levee and Drainage District, Missouri Department of Conservation, Environmental Protection Agency Region VII, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss the scope of a revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway project. The revised SEIS will include analysis of different New Madrid levee closure locations and a more detailed discussion of potential mitigation sites. Evaluation of levee closure alternatives has been initiated. The revised draft SEIS is scheduled to be completed in October of this year.

In regard to your support for improvement of the New Madrid riverfront, the Memphis District and Mississippi River Commission staffs will continue to work with New Madrid officials to determine the appropriate response to the city's proposed plan for this area.

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