

Dear Ms. Breckenridge:

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 adverse impact of flooding on the lives, property, and livelihood of area residents. You also discussed your organization's support for the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway project and mentioned the roadblocks to the project's implementation.

As you know, the Memphis District has devoted extensive effort to the formulation and evaluation of a balanced flood damage reduction plan that will minimize or mitigate adverse impacts on natural resources. In the preparation of the revised draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, for example, the District is investigating alternatives to further reduce adverse impacts on area wetlands and fishery habitat while maintaining critical flood control.

We appreciate the local input and support of the Corps in its efforts to comply fully with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. We recognize the efforts of your organization to address the social problems and needs of area residents and your support of flood damage reduction as a key ingredient for solving many of the economic problems.

The Commission acknowledges your concern about the roadblocks that have hindered the implementation of the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway project. 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 and to reduce the spread of misconceptions and misrepresentations.

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