

Dear Mr. Brontoli:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) during the public meeting held in Mayersville, Mississippi, on August 20, 2003.

The MRC appreciates your efforts and positive comments concerning the Vicksburg District and the measures taken to ensure tows on the Red River can navigate safely during high-water conditions.

In your statement you discussed serious conditions that threaten the ecosystem and navigation of the lower Red River, upper Atchafalaya River basin, and Ouachita-Black Rivers, and you requested that the Vicksburg and New Orleans Districts use a regional watershed approach to investigate and resolve these concerns.

On October 6, 2003, representatives from the Mississippi Valley Division and the New Orleans and Vicksburg Districts met to discuss problems associated with bank caving and channel degradation of the lower Red River (below Lock and Dam 1), the lower Ouachita-Black Rivers, and the upper Atchafalaya River. Coordination is in progress to evaluate this situation.

We appreciate receiving your comments and look forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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