

Dear Mr. Burdine:

Thank you for your warm welcome and presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Greenville, Mississippi, on April 9, 2003. In your statement you discussed the President's proposal to fund Operation and Maintenance (O&M) projects out of the Harbor and Maintenance Trust Fund and the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

The Inland Waterways Trust Fund was authorized under the Inland Waterways Revenue Act of 1978. The Act created 4 cents per gallon fuel tax on 26 designated shallow draft waterways. The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorized the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The Act also established an inland waterway users board and increased fuel tax to 20 cents by 1995. Eight lock and dam projects were authorized expenditures from the fund.

The Corps aging infrastructure continues to decline. Over 49 percent of lock chambers and 29 percent of dams are at least 50 years old. Due to an O&M backlog of \$450 million, needed maintenance to prolong the life of this infrastructure is not being provided. We will continue to utilize the resources provided to maintain the infrastructure to the best of our ability.

Thank you again for the presentation on behalf of the Port of Greenville. The Commission appreciates receiving your views 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