

Dear Mr. Canada:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Helena, Arkansas, on April 3, 2001. In your statement you discussed the water resources problems in the Bayou Meto Basin and your desire for project implementation.

The Commission understands the critical groundwater depletion and flooding problems in the Bayou Meto Basin and recognizes the need for a solution to these and other water resources problems and opportunities. We are confident that by working together with the Bayou Meto Water Management District and other Federal, state, and local interests, that a plan of improvement can be developed to address the full spectrum of water resources problems in the Bayou Meto Basin. However, as you are probably aware, the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2002 does not include any funding to complete the general reevaluation of the project. Given the large backlog of funding needed to complete construction projects already underway, the budget focuses on completing these ongoing projects.

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments 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