

Dear Mr. Curole:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 11, 2003. We appreciate your comments, historical perspective, and illustrations showing the vulnerabilities of the hurricane protection system for south Louisiana.

We agree with your assessment of the desperate need for a comprehensive hurricane protection system for the area. The New Orleans District will continue to work on the Hurricane Protection study and coordinate with your organization to develop effective solutions to prevent hurricane damage and disruptions to the economy and well-being of the residents of south Louisiana. The Morganza to the Gulf project will provide hurricane protection for the Terrebonne Basin. Currently, the Donaldsonville to the Gulf project is in the feasibility study phase. A major objective of the study is to provide hurricane protection for the Barataria Basin. If both projects are constructed, a major portion of the area in question will have hurricane protection. Other projects, such as Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity and West Bank and Vicinity, will provide protection for other large areas as well.

The draft post-authorization change report for the Leon Theriot Lock is under review by our Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The New Orleans District is reviewing the bid package for the pre-cast base structure and the design calculations

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prepared by Picciola & Associates. The Engineer Research and Development Center is completing a model study to determine the optimum alignment for the new floodgate, the chamber walls, and the guide walls.

We understand the urgency in moving forward with the Leon Theriot Lock Post-Authorization Change. However, please be aware that a non-Federal sponsor assumes certain risks when it commences potentially creditable work (or awards a contract for such work) prior to the approval of a project decision document and execution of a cost-sharing agreement with the Corps for the proposed sponsor work.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views and looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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