

Dear Mr. Daigle:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Morgan City, Louisiana, on August 22, 2003.

We acknowledge your concerns about the hypoxic conditions in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The Action Plan report for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia was presented to Congress by the Environmental Protection Agency in January 2001. This plan calls for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out a reconnaissance-level study of potential nutrient reduction actions that could be achieved by modifying projects or project operations. Congressional authorization and funding are necessary to enable the Corps to accomplish the study. The Corps is taking the hypoxia problem into account as it plans future work throughout the Mississippi and Atchafalaya River basins and in the central Gulf Coast region.

The Corps is participating in most, if not all, of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance regional sessions. We have agreed to co-lead the Hypoxia Task Force Watershed Restoration Workgroup. Mr. Owen Dutt from the St. Louis District is our representative. He shares the leadership position with Ms. Teresa Woods from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. George Dunlop from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) is our Task Force Member. Please advise him of any future meetings of the Lower Sub-Basin Committee.

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The Commission appreciates receiving your comments 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