

Dear Mr. Duyvejonck:

Thank you for your comments before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Davenport, Iowa, on August 13, 2002. In your presentation and handouts you described the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC) report describing habitat objectives and cost estimates to achieve a desired level of ecosystem integrity of the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). While the Corps has not reviewed the objectives and estimates contained in the report and therefore neither endorses nor rejects their accuracy, we applaud the effort that has produced the report and look forward to its contribution to the decisions faced by Congress.

The collaborative and vertically integrated institutional arrangements created during the recent restructuring and development of the interim report for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway (UMM-IWW) System Navigation Study continue to serve as a shining example of multi-agency and multi-disciplinary teamwork. The commitment, expertise, and contributions of our many partner agencies and stakeholders have greatly enhanced the planning and evaluation process. The Corps is committed to further strengthening this new foundation of collaboration in the completion of the feasibility study and implementation of the resulting recommendations. Over the coming months and years, the Corps will continue to seek opportunities and approaches for leveraging the authorities

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and programs of all the Federal and state agencies involved in the management of the UMRS. Leveraging and collaboration are essential to ensuring the attainment of our mutual goals for long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the UMRS.

Thank you again for your presentation before the Commission. We appreciate the continued dedication and contributions provided by your local, regional, and national U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff in dealing with the multitude of challenges and opportunities associated with the UMR-IWW

System Navigation Study. We appreciate your concern, support, and interest in the viability, health, and sustainability of the UMRS and look forward to our continued collaborative working relationship.

Sincerely,

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