

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 5, 2002. In your statement you discussed the need for the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration project and provided a brief update on the project.

The importance of clean and abundant water cannot be overstated. Water will be one of the primary issues for this century. As you know, the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration project addresses aquifer protection and water supply issues by increasing irrigation efficiencies and making better use of surface water that is excess to other purposes for irrigation. The Corps of Engineers is proud to partner in construction of the on-farm features of the project with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, your irrigation district, and local citizens.

The President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2003 does not include funding to continue and/or complete this effort. The budget request for the Mississippi River and Tributaries project focuses on its main stem components and studies and projects whose outputs are related to flood control, navigation, and environmental restoration.

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, Mississippi River
Commission