

Dear Ms. Frazier:

Thank you for your remarks before the Mississippi River Commission during our public meeting in Alton, Illinois, on August 15, 2002. In your statement you provided information on your organization's conservation work in the Middle Mississippi River program area and discussed the Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge.

You asked the Commission's support of legislation that would clarify the Regulating Works Authority of the St. Louis District to include environmental goals. The language that you provided is in harmony with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Operating Principles. It recognizes the interdependence of life and physical environment. The language seeks the balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

In regard to your request for support of the creation of the new Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge, the Corps currently works very closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on current land management issues relative to the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge. We believe that such cooperation would continue if a new wildlife refuge was designated for the middle portion of the Mississippi River.

-2-

Balancing the interests within the Mississippi Valley remains a challenge, and the Corps will continue its efforts to meet the flood control, navigation, and environmental needs of all. The Commission appreciates receiving your views 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