

Dear Mr. Gary:

Thank you for your comments before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you affirmed concerns of your previous statement before the Commission about degradation in secondary chutes for recreation. You had expressed concerns of the secondary channels at Redman Bar and Hickman Bar on the Mississippi River for recreational purposes at approximately river miles 745 (left bank) and 742 (right bank), just north of Memphis.

The Corps of Engineers lacks authority to provide recreation along secondary chutes of the Mississippi River. The Corps' authority is limited to maintaining the navigation channel and providing flood control. However, the Corps is concerned about secondary chutes on the Mississippi River. Within current authority and available funding, the Memphis District will continue to monitor secondary chutes and evaluate alternatives that would allow additional flow in secondary channels. The Memphis District staff is available upon your request to meet with you and discuss your concerns.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission