

Dear Mr. Goodwin:

Thank you for your comments before the Mississippi River Commission during our public meeting held on August 17, 2001, in St. Louis, Missouri. In your statement you addressed the inland navigation system on the Upper Mississippi River, as well as the importance of navigation and water resource programs as they relate to American agriculture.

On August 2, 2001, the Director of Civil Works, on behalf of the Chief of Engineers and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, instructed the Corps of Engineers to resume the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study. The refocused study will develop a plan to be used as a framework for the environmental sustainability of the river's navigation system, ecosystem, and floodplain management, while preserving the operational characteristics of each. A collaborative process is underway with all stakeholders of the Upper Mississippi River to prepare an interim report on a comprehensive management plan by July 2002 with a final report due later. The National Federal Senior Principals Task Force, along with the Regional Interagency Work Group on which you serve, will be important components of this collaborative process. Your participation in this effort is valued and greatly appreciated.

The Corps will continue its efforts to meet the flood control, navigation, and environmental needs in the Mississippi Valley. Our success is largely attributable to a strong partnership with local interests and governmental agencies such as yours.

Thank you again for your participation in our St. Louis hearing. The Commission looks forward to working with you on the many complex and diverse issues facing us on the Mississippi River and will be pleased to hear from you at future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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