

Dear Ms. Harris:

Thank you for your statement filed for the record of the Mississippi River Commission public meeting held on August 17, 2001, in St. Louis, Missouri. Your comments addressed your desire for the Corps and the Mississippi River Commission to adopt the goal of preparing a cumulative impact study of potential flooding of the major rivers and tributaries in the St. Louis region.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not currently have the Congressional authority or funding to initiate a study of the cumulative hydraulic impacts on the Missouri and Mississippi River floodplain resulting from public and private flood control and other significant infrastructure improvements in St. Charles and St. Louis Counties. Most Corps water resources studies are cost shared with a non-Federal local sponsor at 50 percent local cost and 50 percent Federal cost. A study such as the one you are suggesting would require an authorization by Congress for a new study start. To have the study conducted at full Federal cost, Congress would need to include that direction in the authorization. In addition, Congress would need to provide funding in an appropriations bill for the Corps to conduct the study.

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.

Thank you again for your statement filed for the record of the St. Louis meeting. The Commission appreciates receiving your views and looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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