

Dear Mr. Heninger:

Thank you for your statement filed for the record of the Mississippi River Commission public meeting held in Davenport, Iowa, on August 13, 2002. You expressed your concerns and support for the maintenance and improvement of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway (UMR-IWW) System Navigation Study.

The UMR-IWW System Navigation Study has been restructured to give equal consideration of fish and wildlife resources and navigation improvement planning consistent with recommendations from the National Research Council and the Federal Principals Group. The restructured study will ensure the UMR-IWW system continues to be a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system as designated by Congress. The restructured study will address the navigation efficiency needs of the UMR-IWW, the ongoing cumulative effects of navigation, and the ecosystem restoration needs with a goal of attaining an environmentally sustainable navigation system. The full economic and environmental evaluations necessary to support a potential recommendation for construction of navigation improvements and implementation of ecosystem restoration measures will be completed by October 2003. These potential plans will be presented at a series of public meetings beginning in October 2003 to gain public input prior to making a final recommendation. The final feasibility report is currently scheduled for completion in 2004. For more information and details concerning the UMR-IWW System Navigation Study please refer to the Rock Island District website: <http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/umr-iwwsns/>.

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Thank you again for your ideas and opinions submitted to the Commission. We appreciate your concern, support, and interest in ensuring the integrity and sustainability of the UMRS navigation infrastructure and environmental components. We look forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission