

Dear Mayor Hill:

Thank you for the statement made on your behalf by Mr. Milton Magee before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Tiptonville, Tennessee, on August 18, 2003. In your statement you requested assistance with bank caving problems on the Obion River that threaten the stability of the Dyer County Little Levee.

The authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform repairs on the Obion River at 100 percent Federal expense under the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project is limited to problems that threaten the main-line Mississippi River levee. The site in question does not endanger the main-line levee and the threat to a revetment or cutting a new channel to the Mississippi River appears very remote at this time. Under these circumstances, repairs under the MR&T project would not be appropriate.

The Dyer County Little Levee is in the Corps Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP), which is within the legal parameters of Public Law 84-99. Rehabilitation of the levee under Public Law 84-99 would be appropriate only to repair damage caused by a flood event. In this case the riverbank has been caving for several years, and the caving was not a result of a single flood event. We understand the erosion is now within approximately 35 feet of the toe of the levee. For the levee project to remain an active RIP project, action should be taken to ensure the bank caving does not advance to within 25 feet of the toe of the levee. Please contact the Memphis

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District for consultation services, if this would be helpful to you in this matter.

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