

Dear Mr. Hipp:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Greenville, Mississippi, on April 9, 2003. In your statement you discussed immediate needs at Sardis Lake, including improving campgrounds to accommodate larger vehicles, rehabilitating old and outdated recreational facilities, resurfacing project roads, and rehabilitating water systems.

The Commission shares your concern for the condition of recreation facilities at Sardis Lake and the need for repairs and modernization. The Commission also recognizes the important influence that Sardis Lake has on the local economy and the need for additional funding to help sustain and improve the public recreational opportunities afforded by this project.

Vicksburg District is very much aware of the repair and modernization needs at Sardis Lake and has included those needs in its annual budget requests. For your information, the Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriation Act added \$4 million to the Sardis Lake budget for additional maintenance. This additional funding will allow the initiation of the following contracts this fiscal year:

a. Relocate the Crawford Point boat ramp displaced by the John Kyle State Park golf course construction to the Highway 7 - Little Tallahatchie River crossing area on upper Sardis.

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b. Rehabilitate the dam overlook parking area.

c. Realign the access road and boat ramp parking area at Teckville Landing to correct safety hazards.

d. Realign the access road and boat ramp parking area at Coontown Crossing to correct safety hazards.

e. Realign the access road and boat ramp parking area at Wyatts Crossing to correct safety hazards.

This additional funding will also allow us to prepare engineering plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of

our Elmer's Hill water system, the rehabilitation and modernization of recreation facilities at Oak Grove and Sleepy Bend, and the modernization of the electrical system at Clear Creek campground. Additional funding will be required next fiscal year to allow us to advertise and award contracts for these items and to complete the contracts that we initiate this year.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views and looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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