

Dear Mrs. Hunter:

Thank you for your statement filed for the record of the Mississippi River Commission public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you discussed future operations and maintenance of the New Madrid city harbor and the feasibility study of this harbor.

The Commission acknowledges the importance of the New Madrid city harbor. As you stated, the Memphis District has started dredging the harbor and has plans to degrade the closure dike by 5 feet before the end of the calendar year 2001. This solution to the harbor's degradation problem is a result of the Memphis District's 2001 micromodel study of this reach. This dredging should help to improve conditions in the harbor. The dredging was completed on August 30, 2001, and the modification of the closure dike is scheduled for September 2001.

To date, funds have not been provided to perform a feasibility study to determine if Federal resumption of maintenance of the city harbor is warranted. Funds in the amount of \$50,000 are included in the House version of the Fiscal Year 2002 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill to perform this study, while no funds are included in the Senate version for this effort.

The Commission appreciates your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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