

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Tiptonville, Tennessee, on August 19, 2002. In your statement you discussed the ongoing replacement of two culverts through the mainline Mississippi River levee and the need for two additional culvert replacements, the Riverfront Improvement project, and the St. John's-New Madrid Floodway project.

The ongoing culvert replacement at station 0/22+36 is scheduled to be completed in November 2002. Replacement of the second culvert, located at the end of Riley Street, has been initiated and the scheduled contract completion date is June 2003. The Memphis District is finishing the plans and specifications for a third gravity flow culvert replacement, located near the Sinclair property. Advertisement of this contract, however, is currently not scheduled due to funding and budgetary constraints. In addition, the project site is located near an identified area of petroleum contamination. The Memphis District must ensure the culvert replacement site is not contaminated before the work can be considered for advertisement. There are currently no plans to replace the culvert at Dawson Road. However, the Memphis District will continue to inspect this culvert and consider its replacement when warranted.

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As you know, the construction contract for the Riverfront Improvement project was awarded on August 2, 2002. The pre-construction conference has taken place, and construction began the week of September 16, 2002. The Corps of Engineers appreciates the cooperation of the City of New Madrid and the St. John's Levee and Drainage District throughout the development of this project.

In regard to the St. Johns-New Madrid Floodway project, the Commission is pleased that review of the final revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement has been completed. This milestone could not have been achieved without the tireless efforts of local interests.

Thank you again for your presentation. The Commission appreciates receiving your comments 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