

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on March 6, 2002.

We share your frustrations in the lack of flood control and how it has affected your community. The damage has been documented time and time again with every passing flood. However, even after meetings with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and environmental groups, there remains considerable opposition to the recommended plan. The recommended plan offers a balanced approach to the economic and environmental needs of the South Delta. Environmental resources will increase, low-lying farmland will be converted from agricultural to bottomland hardwoods, recreation opportunities will increase, and many other positive factors will be gained for the area.

The Commission appreciates your continued commitment and steadfastness toward the Yazoo Backwater project and acknowledges your frustration in the time that has transpired since Congress first authorized the project. Let me assure you that the Corps is making progress and is moving forward with resolution of comments on the draft Yazoo Backwater Reformulation Report. The Corps is committed to making this project a reality while sustaining the environment.

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The Commission recognizes the success stakeholders like you and other Delta citizens have had in working with members of Congress in securing funding for this work. The Corps remains committed to executing all projects consistent with the Congressional appropriations.

Thank you again for your comments before the Commission. We appreciate receiving your views and look forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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