

Dear Mr. Klingner:

Thank you for your statement made before the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) during the public meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 15, 2003. In your statement you specifically addressed the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan's progress was slowed during the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2003 due to funding requirements. The study schedule, prior to the study slow down, was to forward a report to Washington, D.C. in December 2004. The team is seeking to recover the slowdown to meet this schedule.

The Commission will consider a continuing authority for stabilizing banks of the Upper Mississippi River System, but specific Congressional authority, usually based on feasibility study recommendations from the Administration, would be required to establish such an authority. A recommendation for future feasibility studies of bank stabilization works as related to flood control will be evaluated as part of the Upper Mississippi River System Comprehensive Study.

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