

Dear Mr. Klingner:

Thank you for your attendance at the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission on August 15, 2001, in Keokuk, Iowa.

Your ideas and recommendations are greatly appreciated. As you know, the Corps of Engineers' multi-faceted missions encompass the needs of the environment, commercial interests, and recreational pursuits. One of its greatest challenges is the equitable balancing of these missions among diverse interests of the citizens of the upper Mississippi Valley.

The issues you discussed are of high priority to the Corps and are of great importance to this region and the country. The Commission appreciates your support and positive comments regarding the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study.

You questioned whether low head hydropower could be installed as a part of the lock rehabilitation in the Navigation Study. There is currently no authorization available for the Corps to pursue hydropower development on the Mississippi River. The Corps has worked with private hydropower developers in the past, such as the project developed at Starved Rock Dam on the Illinois Waterway and the proposed project at Dam 14 on the Mississippi. The Corps could become engaged in the future if a Federal interest and local sponsors are identified.

The Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study will provide updated flood profiles for the Lower Missouri, Upper Mississippi, and Illinois Rivers. These profiles are fundamental to all aspects of floodplain management. The study made significant progress during Fiscal Year 2001 and is expected to be fully funded (\$1.2 million) in Fiscal Year 2002. This Flow Frequency Study is on track for completion in March 2003. The Corps appreciates your efforts through participation in the Citizen's Public Involvement Group and encourages your continued support of this study.

The Comprehensive Plan was authorized by the Water Resource Development Act of 1999 to address systemic flood damage reduction and related water resource problems in the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. The plan was not funded in the budget submission. However, funding is in the House and Senate mark-up of the Fiscal Year 2002 budget, and we anticipate that it will be in the final bill. If funded, the Corps is dedicated to completing the plan on time and within budget.

Your interest in Mississippi River Commission activities is appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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