

Dear Mr. Labit:

Thank you for your statement made before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 15, 2003. In your statement you specifically addressed the St. Louis Harbor study.

The original authorization for this project included a St. Louis Municipal Dock sediment control structure and a 6,900-foot harbor along the Chain of Rocks Canal in Illinois. The project as currently formulated eliminates the sediment control structure at the St. Louis Municipal Dock. The general reevaluation study is currently underway to determine if the project is incrementally feasible. In addition, a limited reevaluation report (LRR) was prepared as directed by Section 415 of Water Resources Development Act 1996. The LRR analysis indicates that the current plan formulation is not economically feasible. Following a policy review with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in April 2003, it was concluded that the reevaluation report would recommend against Federal participation. This is based on the May 22, 1987, recommendation of the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works which states that, although economically justified, Federal involvement is not warranted because local interests can finance the project and recoup their costs from users who benefit from the availability of additional flood-free lands and land with navigation access for waterfront development.

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The President's Fiscal Year 2004 civil works budget limited the number of Planning, Engineering, and Design (PED) activities. The PED's included were essentially those that were to be completed in Fiscal Year 2004, have high net returns per dollar invested, have signed agreements, or involve inland navigation. Since this project is in the reevaluation stage, it did not meet any of the criteria at that time and was excluded from the President's budget.

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