

Dear Mr. Lymenstull:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Hannibal, Missouri, on August 14, 2003. In your statement you raised concerns regarding flooding, impacts of levees on river stages, and flood protection evaluation procedures.

The Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan evaluation will include several alternative plans. The hydraulic profiles being used are from the recent Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study. Alternatives include a systemic high level of protection and the associated increase in hydraulic profiles, an Emergency Action Plan, and a plan that would evaluate the impact of levee setbacks in various locations. The purpose of the Emergency Action Plan is to evaluate potential improvements in "flood fighting" efforts in order to lessen the associated increases in flood profiles during a severe flood.

Regarding water and sewage treatment plants, critical infrastructure will be identified and impacts of changes in levees and profiles described. Calculation of benefit-to-cost ratios for any changes in the levee system will follow the standard procedures that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires.

The Commission will be making a recommendation regarding the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Feasibility Study and the Comprehensive Plan prior to the reports being forwarded to Congress.

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We appreciate receiving your views 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