

Dear Mr. Madden:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Lake Providence, Louisiana, on August 21, 2002. In your statement you expressed concerns about the Vicksburg District's technical specifications for levee surfacing material.

The Vicksburg District's report "Use of Crushed Sandstone as Surfacing and Resurfacing Material on Levees," and accompanying data previously sent to you, states that since there is not conclusive evidence that crushed sandstone is equal to or better than crushed limestone and sand-clay-gravel, the Vicksburg District will accept crushed sandstone along with the other two materials on an interim basis for the next 2 to 3 years.

In order to make a determination, test sites will be established where crushed limestone and crushed sandstone can be compared side-by-side. Test strips will be established at stations in Arkansas and also in Louisiana where there is a high amount of traffic. The Corps of Engineers will monitor these test sections on a 6-month basis over the next 2 to 3 years until a final determination can be made. This monitoring should allow adequate time to provide reasonable confidence in the performance of crushed sandstone.

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Thank you again for your statement. The Commission appreciates 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