

Dear Mr. Madison:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you discussed that construction on the improvement to your harbor under the Section 107 authority has been initiated. You noted your disagreement with the ruling by the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works that the work performed by the National Guard could not be allowed as credit as part of the harbor improvement. You also expressed concern regarding the length of time it took for the Memphis District and the Mississippi Valley Division to approve the Section 107 Report which authorized your harbor improvement.

The Commission is pleased to learn that construction on your harbor improvement is underway. We look forward to hearing from you on the progress of this construction.

The reason for the decision by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on not allowing credit for work performed by the National Guard was that the National Guard was not able to provide a letter stating that its work could be counted as credit toward the non-Federal cost share of a Federal project.

The Commission acknowledges your concerns regarding the time it takes to approve small navigation project reports such as the one on your harbor improvement. The approval process for Section 107 reports and projects has recently changed with

coordination now being required with the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. This action has lengthened the processing time required to approve such a report. This additional review has lengthened the approval time in these reports. The Commission has asked its staff and that of the Districts to find ways to expedite processing times.

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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