

Dear Mr. McDonald:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Helena, Arkansas, on April 3, 2001. In your statement you discussed the positive results of the studies conducted during the general reevaluation study of the White River navigation improvements. You also discussed the need for developing a video showing a river hydrological cycle to be used in educating the public.

The Commission recognizes the need for the navigation improvements along the White River. However, as you are probably aware, the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2002 does not include any funding to complete the reevaluation of the project. Given the large backlog of funding needed to complete construction projects already underway, the budget focuses on completing these ongoing projects.

In reference to your comment on the need to develop a video showing a river's hydrological cycle, the Mississippi River Commission and Memphis District staffs will investigate the feasibility of preparing such a video. The Memphis District will keep you informed on the progress of this matter.

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