

Dear Mr. McGee:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Tiptonville, Tennessee, on August 19, 2002. In your statement you requested assistance with the scour problem on the Obion River that threatens the stability of the Dyer County Little Levee.

Members of the Memphis District and Commission have inspected the site in question. The site was also extensively monitored during the May 2002 flood event. The erosion is within approximately 50 feet of the toe of the Dyer County Little Levee. As you are aware, this private levee is in the Public Law (PL) 84-99 program. However, rehabilitation of the levee under PL 84-99 would be appropriate only to repair damage caused by a flood event. In this case, the scour is only a threat and has not caused actual damage. There is a possibility that the levee could be set back under PL 84-99; however, projects such as this require that the local sponsor provide 20 percent of the project cost. The Memphis District staff will contact you regarding the details of this program.

The authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform repairs on the Obion River at 100 percent Federal expense under the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project is limited to problems that threaten the main-line Mississippi River levee. The site in question does not endanger the main-line levee, and the threat to a revetment or cutting a new channel to the Mississippi River appears very remote at this time. Under these circumstances, repairs under the MR&T project would not be appropriate.

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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