

Dear Mrs. Merrill:

Thank you for your attendance and presentation at the Mississippi River Commission public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you requested that funds be made available for the environmental enhancement and recreational components of the Nonconnah Creek project and that funding for these components be given high priority.

The Commission recognizes your efforts and those of others in trying to obtain funding for these components. These components would contribute to a healthy, supportive, diverse, and sustainable condition as I discussed in my presentation during the public hearing. Unfortunately, the budget request for the Mississippi River and Tributaries work has not been sufficient to fund all work. The budget has focused on completing ongoing projects rather than starting the construction of new projects or separable elements thereof that would add to the backlog of uncompleted projects and thus further delay the completion of these ongoing projects. However, as we complete those projects currently underway, the Memphis District will certainly weigh the merits of the Nonconnah Creek project for new-start construction.

Thank you again for your comments. We appreciate receiving your views 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