

Dear Mr. Minsky:

Thank you for your presentation during the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission, held in Greenville, Mississippi, on April 9 2003. In your statement you discussed progress on the Mississippi River Levee Enlargement program. You also requested support and endorsement for the Tensas Basin feasibility phase study.

As you discussed in your statement, construction of the Mississippi River main line levees in East Carroll and Madison Parishes is proceeding well. Levee Item 453-R was awarded, and additional awards are scheduled for Items 450-R and 445-R in Fiscal Year 2004. These items will complete the Willow Point-Young's Point reach. Items 365-R, 361-R, and 357-R of the Vidalia-Moreville reach are also scheduled for award during the latter part of Fiscal Year 2004. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Fifth Louisiana Levee District in bringing this vital flood control project to completion.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognizes your desire to provide additional flood protection, water supply, and environmental restoration to the Tensas Basin Area. Many areas are experiencing water supply and environmental needs similar to those in the Tensas Basin. A reconnaissance study was initiated in Fiscal Year 2002 and is scheduled for completion in September 2003.

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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