

Dear Mr. Mueller:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in West Memphis, Arkansas, on August 19, 2003. In your statement you identified specific headcutting and channel instability problems on the Arkansas and White Rivers caused by the Mississippi River and requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers take a systems approach to solving these problems.

The Commission recognizes the significant fish and wildlife habitat in the lower White and Arkansas Rivers and the need to protect this significant ecosystem. The Little Rock District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is presently studying the problems that you identified within their District on the lower White and Arkansas Rivers. The Corps will continue to work with you on these efforts.

As for your request for a study of the impacts that the Mississippi River is having on the geomorphology of the White and Arkansas Rivers, presently there is neither the authority nor the appropriations for a study. The Corps is available to discuss the actions that must take place before a study can be initiated.

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