

Dear Mr. Nolan:

Thank you for your comments during the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission on August 13, 2002, in Davenport, Iowa.

The Corps of Engineers is actively involved in a number of projects involving ecosystem restoration efforts. In many cases these projects are directly concerned with the effects of stream degradation and sediment movements. Excess sediment delivery to reservoirs decreases capacity and on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterways likely contributes to increased dredging requirements required to maintain commercial navigation.

The Commission is pleased to have received information on your patented Silt Terrace Erosion Prevention (STEP) system that stabilizes channels against erosion. We are working on environmental projects in Iowa and Illinois that will stabilize streambeds and banks. We currently have a number of practices that may be appropriate and will consider the information on your practice for future reference as well.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), on a number of projects. Your STEP practice would likely be of particular interest to NRCS as well. Most of the Corps' work is on larger rivers and streams in contrast with NRCS, which often implements practices in partnership with landowners on agricultural lands.

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If you have questions on current restoration efforts, please contact Mr. Brad Thompson, Project Manager for Watershed and Ecosystem Restoration Studies at the Rock Island District, at (309) 794-5256.

Thank you again for your participation in our Davenport meeting. The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission