

Dear Mr. Overbey:

Thank you for your remarks before the Mississippi River Commission during our public meeting held on April 7, 2003, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

The Commission is pleased that you are satisfied with the assistance, cooperation, and support that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided, both from the St. Louis and Memphis Districts, in the operation of the Southeast Missouri Port. As you are well aware, this project has a Federal responsibility to dredge the approach channel and the authorized channel within the port. Administration policy precludes budgeting for shallow draft harbors and low commercial use harbors and channels. Historically, there has been an annual requirement for dredging to maintain the project depth.

Balancing the interests within the Mississippi Valley remains a challenge, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue its efforts to meet the flood control, navigation, and environmental needs.

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