

Dear Mr. Page:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 8, 2003. In your statement you discussed DeSoto County's efforts to implement a county-wide wastewater system for providing service to the citizens of the county and that you are seeing the results of those efforts with the award of the construction contract for the Short Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant on February 28, 2003. You also discussed the status of local sponsor design on future items of work that are an integral part of the wastewater system; Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) amendment for the balance of Corps authorization; work with your Congressional delegation to secure the balance of funding (\$8 million) under current Corps authority and to increase that authorization to include the entire eastern division component of the wastewater system; and local funding for project implementation.

The Commission recognizes the tremendous efforts of the County in bringing this project to fruition. The DeSoto County Regional Utility Authority, under your leadership, is to be commended for the work done in securing the funding and authorities for project implementation. The PCA amendment, to include the balance of Corps funding authority, has been processed to Corps higher headquarters for review and approval.

The Corps will continue to efficiently execute work with you on the DeSoto County Regional Wastewater System to the extent funding and authorization permit.

-2-

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments. We look forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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

River Commission