

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer:

Thank you for participating in the Mississippi River Commission public meeting held in Marquette, Iowa, on August 12, 2002.

The Commission agrees wholeheartedly that all aspects of the river are important. Management of the river system must include consideration of commercial and recreational interests, as well as protecting wildlife. As a long-time resident of the area, you know that recreation on the Mississippi River is an important and valuable part of people's lives. You have noted that the demand for recreation facilities is increasing while the opportunities are dwindling.

We agree that dredged material is an excellent source for creating and maintaining beaches for recreational use. When placed for beach nourishment, however, dredged material must not be subject to secondary movement and deposition in areas where it will adversely affect fish and wildlife habitat. The St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, intends to continue working with state and Federal resource agencies to develop plans to provide recreational opportunities by using dredged material or reshaping existing sites.

In response to comments made at the public meeting, the Corps has already arranged with other agencies to use material dredged this year near Guttenberg, Iowa, to enhance three beaches in that area. For the long term, the Corps will revisit a recreational beach plan originally developed in 1986 for the pool 10 reach. One limitation for providing dredged material beaches in pool 10 is the low volume of dredging performed in

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that pool. Most of the dredging is concentrated just upstream of Guttenberg. The Corps must have a nearby dredging requirement in order to use its resources to establish new beaches or the Corps can partner with local sponsors in development of cost-sharing opportunities for maintenance and creation of beaches within pool 10.

The Commission values your views and comments. We look forward to your continued participation as we work to address

the many economic, environmental, and recreational issues of
the upper Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President, Mississippi River
Commission