

Dear Mr. Rankins:

Thank you for your statement filed for the record of the Mississippi River Commission public meeting in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on April 4, 2001, in which you discussed the Greenville mat loading facilities and the impact of the potential move of the unit from your city.

In January of this year, after consideration of findings by Management Analysis, Inc., the Memphis District Commander requested approval from the Mississippi Valley Division Commander to close the Greenville Engineer Yard (GEY), thereby physically transferring personnel and equipment of the Greenville-based mat loading unit to the Ensley Engineer Yard located in Memphis. The Memphis District requested that this action be taken to improve operational efficiency and reduce overall program costs. The Corps mat casting field, an unmanned facility also located in Greenville, still has a large inventory of concrete mat that will be used to supply revetment needs for at least the next 5 to 8 years. The District's request to close GEY has been reviewed by the Division staff. However, at this time, the Division has not approved the request as we continue to evaluate the input we have received before making a final decision. The Memphis District staff will contact you when a decision is made.

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

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