

Dear Mr. Rash:

Thank you for your testimony before the Mississippi River Commission during the hearing held in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 5, 2002, in which you discussed several Corps projects.

As you mentioned, the Memphis District currently has a number of activities underway in your levee district. We appreciate your recognition of the Memphis District's completion of the Turkey Roost scour repair and Pecan Point slope restoration as well as the ongoing work on the West Memphis slope restoration. Work is underway on plans and specifications for the Monterey-Princedale channel cleanout. The Memphis District will continue to prioritize and address levee slide repairs and channel scour repairs as the need arises.

The installation of relief wells at Blue Lake, Arkansas, is about 75 percent complete. The Memphis District is scheduled to award a contract for the construction of outlet ditches for the Blue Lake relief wells in June 2002.

A Design Documentation Report on the Ten and Fifteen Mile Bayous is scheduled for completion in June 2002. If funds are available, contracts for replacement of the U.S. Highway 79 bridge at mile 15.8 and St. Francis County road bridge at mile 13.8 will be awarded in the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2002. The first item of channel work on Ten and Fifteen Mile Bayous could be awarded in Fiscal Year 2003, subject to the availability of funds.

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The Corps recognizes your concerns about the industrial growth in the St. Francis Basin and how the ongoing projects will play in supporting that growth. The Blytheville slack water harbor feasibility study is scheduled for completion in May 2002, and the Memphis District will continue to inform you of the progress of the study.

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

Sincerely,

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