

Dear Mr. Revis:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Helena, Arkansas, on April 3, 2001. In your statement you discussed three specific issues: (a) work to correct the adverse navigation conditions at Mile 599 on the Mississippi River at the mouth of the White River; (b) reduced maintenance spending that is reflected in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2002 budget for waterway development; and (c) the need for dissemination of accurate information about water development projects under study by the Corps of Engineers, such as a video presentation to show a river's annual hydrological cycle.

The Memphis District is continuing to work toward developing a solution that will improve navigation conditions at the mouth of the White River for all concerned. The Memphis District has obtained a micro model study by the St. Louis District and a navigation model by the Engineer Research and Development Center to help evaluate the mouth of the White River. The Corps believes that the solution to the navigation problem is seven bendway weirs, five upstream of the confluence and two downstream.

The Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) and the Memphis District met with the River Industry Executive Task Force and other concerned parties on April 26, 2001, to share information and minimize adverse impacts to the towing industry during construction. In accordance with your telephone conversation on May 14, 2001, with Mr. Louis Logue, Chief of Operations, MVD, and the staff of the Memphis District, you will be apprised of the changes in contract award and construction schedule.

We share your concern regarding the reduced maintenance funding reflected in the President's Fiscal Year 2002 budget request. The Commission heard similar concerns voiced by others during the recent public hearings.

In regard to your comment on the need for a video that shows a river's hydrological cycle, the Mississippi River Commission and Memphis District staffs will investigate the feasibility of preparing such a video. The Memphis District will keep you advised on the progress of this matter.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views 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