

Dear Mr. Roberson:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Caruthersville, Missouri, on April 2, 2001. In your statement you expressed support for the proposed Northwest Tennessee Regional Harbor at Cates Landing and discussed the Reelfoot Lake project and the Highway 21 culvert repair.

As you are aware, the Memphis District is currently conducting engineering, economic, and environmental studies to determine the feasibility of a harbor at Cates Landing. The feasibility report is scheduled to be completed in June 2001. The Commission recognizes the importance of this proposed project to the economy of the tri-county area and supports an expeditious completion of the feasibility study and determination of Federal interest.

The Memphis District initiated Preconstruction Engineering and Design on Reelfoot Lake in September 2000. This work will include preparation of plans and specifications for the first item of work, the spillway. Also included will be the development of an operations plan for the lake and a flooding impact analysis of the proposed spillway and its operations on agricultural lands adjacent to the lake. Construction of the Reelfoot Lake project can be initiated when funds are made available. As you are probably aware, the President's Budget request for Fiscal Year 2002 does not include funds for new start construction on this project. The budget request placed priority on funding ongoing construction projects rather than the initiation of new ones.

In regard to the Highway 21 culvert replacement, the Memphis District awarded the construction contract in November 2000. The contractor's Notice to Proceed was issued in April 2001, and construction is expected to begin in May 2001.

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