

Dear Mr. Roberson:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001. In your statement you discussed the Graveyard Slough-Highway 21 culvert replacement; the Reelfoot Lake project; the proposed Northwest Tennessee Regional Harbor at Cates Landing; and the Fritz Landing culvert.

The Contractor initiated work on the Graveyard Slough-Highway 21 culvert replacement on June 26, 2001. The work is progressing, and completion of this project is expected during the next construction season.

The Preconstruction Engineering and Design phase for Reelfoot Lake is essentially complete. Preparation of plans and specifications for the first item of work, the spillway, is scheduled for completion this month. Development of a preliminary operations plan for the lake and a flooding impact analysis on agricultural lands due to proposed spillway operations are also near completion. Although the operations plan and flooding impact analysis indicate minimal adverse impacts from construction and subsequent operation of the new spillway, Kentucky agricultural interests continue to oppose the project. The President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2002 does not include new start funding to construct the project.

In regard to the proposed harbor at old Cates Landing, the Memphis District was scheduled to complete the study in June 2001. However, Mr. Jimmy Williamson, Chairman of the Northwest Tennessee Port Authority, requested that the Corps delay completion of the study in order for his organization to identify additional interested port service users. The Memphis District has granted his request and, accordingly, has delayed completion of the study. The District staff will keep you apprised of this matter.

The Memphis District is currently conducting a hydraulic evaluation of the Fritz Landing culvert. After completion of this evaluation, the Memphis District staff will advise you of the results.

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