

Dear Mr. Roberson:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Tiptonville, Tennessee, on August 19, 2002. In your statement you discussed the Harris Ditch culvert project (Highway 22 culvert replacement), Cates Landing project, Reelfoot Lake project, and Fritz Landing culvert.

Significant progress has been made recently toward replacement of the Highway 22 culverts of the Harris Ditch project. Construction is scheduled to be completed this fall.

The Memphis District is continuing with the feasibility study on the Cates Landing harbor project and is working with the sponsor on developing a revised alternative plan. After this alternative is developed, the District will be in a better position to assess the schedule for completion of the feasibility study. The Memphis District staff will keep you updated on these matters.

Funding for the Reelfoot Lake project was not included in the President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2003. Although Congress has not finished action on the appropriations bill, funding for this project was not included in either the House or Senate version of the bill. The Corps completed a Water Level Analysis Report in June 2002. It was determined that the proposed spillway and its operation would not significantly impact agricultural lands in Kentucky. However, this matter still has not been resolved, and the prospect of the project moving forward is unlikely until resolution of this issue.

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The Memphis District Hydraulics Branch is currently reevaluating the situation at Fritz Landing to determine if there is Federal interest in replacing the deteriorated culvert at this location. The reevaluation should be completed this fall, and the Memphis District staff will advise you and other local interests on the results.

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

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission