

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Greenville, Mississippi, on August 21, 2001. In your statement you expressed gratitude concerning the effectiveness of flood protection improvements in the Delta and praised the Corps for its responsiveness to ensure that flood protection does not come at the cost of human health and the environment. You also discussed the environmental challenges being faced on the unconstructed Sunflower River Channel Maintenance and Yazoo Backwater projects and expressed the need to move forward with these projects.

The Commission appreciates your comments concerning the Vicksburg District's efforts in conjunction with the Levee Boards as partners on the Upper Yazoo and Upper Steele Bayou projects. Currently, there are two items of work under construction on the Upper Steele Bayou, Channel Item 3 and Swan Lake Phase V. Item 3 is scheduled for completion in October 2001 and Swan Lake Phase V was recently awarded. These two work items will complete the final construction on the Upper Steele Bayou.

The Vicksburg District also has two items of work under construction on the Upper Yazoo projects, Channel Items 4A and 4B. Item 4B is ahead of schedule and Item 4A should be complete this calendar year. Completion of this work will extend the benefits of the Upper Yazoo projects to Greenwood and will afford the flood control reservoirs an improved outlet channel.

The next item of work is Channel Item 5A, scheduled for award in April 2002. The Corps is committed to completion of the Upper Yazoo projects, and with your continued support this needed flood reduction project will soon be a reality.

In regard to the Sunflower Maintenance and Yazoo Backwater projects, the Corps is committed to answering environmental challenges by providing projects dedicated to sustaining the environment while giving full consideration to flood damage reduction for residents of the Delta. The Corps remains committed to executing these projects to the fullest extent consistent with the appropriations contained in the Federal budget each year.

Thank you again for your comments before the Commission. We appreciate 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