

Dear Mr. Schuler:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 11, 2003.

The Commission agrees with your emphasis on keeping the river clean. You mentioned that while attending the open house on the Motor Vessel (MV) MISSISSIPPI on August 9, you stood on the port deck and observed effluent coming from the boat. The Captain of the MV MISSISSIPPI advised us that the vessel does not discharge bilge water. The discharge water you observed was from the vessel's raw water cooling system and air conditioner. This discharge is non-hazardous and environmentally safe for release.

You indicated that a barge canal connecting Duluth/Superior with the Mississippi River would allow boats carrying grain to travel directly to the port on Lake Superior. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted several investigations of the barge canal proposal in the 1800's and early 1900's. These studies indicated that constructing a canal would have significant economic costs and environmental effects. Thus, the plan was found not to be economically or environmentally feasible.

The Commission appreciates receiving your views 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