

Dear Mr. Southern:

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 the desire for the Corps to utilize both the Telecommunications Resource Center and the Rone Exhibit Hall during natural disaster response operations and/or exercises.

We agree that these facilities would be advantageous to responders after a catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. We have proposed the incorporation of these facilities into our New Madrid Catastrophic Disaster Response Plan which assigns specific responsibilities for the state of Missouri to the Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers. The Kansas City District has identified these facilities as potential sites for locating forward deployed response personnel.

We appreciate the diligence you have shown in natural disaster preparedness and response. The Commission looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi
River Commission