

Dear Ms. Spencer:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 5, 2002. In your statement you discussed the continuing bank caving problem along the Mississippi River on your property in Tipton County, Tennessee, at the end of Highway 59 West.

The Corps of Engineers has no authority to provide protection to private property along the Mississippi River. The Corps' authority is limited to maintaining the navigation channel and providing flood control.

Your particular reach of the river has required extensive dredging in the past, and the navigation alignment of the channel is in need of improvement. As you are aware, the Memphis District has conducted a micro model study and evaluated the effects of the Lookout Point dikes on the bank-caving problem and found that the dikes had no effect. The micro model showed a trend that three dikes upstream of Lookout Point would help improve the navigation channel through this reach and may also help, but not correct, the bank caving problem. This dike construction was completed in February 2002, and the Memphis District is continuing to monitor the bank caving in this reach.

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, Mississippi River
Commission