

Dear Ms. Story:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Tiptonville, Tennessee, on August 19, 2002. In your statement you asked that the construction on the St. Johns Bayou-New Madrid Floodway project begin immediately. You also pointed out the impediment flooding imposes on the achievement of the Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center mission.

The Memphis District has requested water quality certification from the state of Missouri and is currently assessing comments received from public coordination of the final revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The District expects to receive water quality certification in November 2002. Following receipt of water quality certification, a Record of Decision (ROD) will be submitted to the Mississippi River Commission. Signing of the ROD by the Commission's President Designee, along with water quality certification, would complete the requirements for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and clear the way for initiation of construction of the project. The Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invite your input and that of other stakeholders throughout the implementation process.

The Learning Center mission to improve the quality of lives, increase pride in learning, and produce more cohesive, productive families in the area is certainly a worthy mission. The Commission recognizes your efforts in this matter.

-2-

Thank you again for your comments during the hearing. 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