

Dear Mr. Strohl:

Thank you for your statement before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, on March 5, 2002, in which you discussed the need for the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration project.

As water levels continue to rapidly drop in both the Sparta and Alluvial Aquifers, people are becoming more aware of the severe water problems in the Grand Prairie area. These problems are becoming evident in other areas of the country that have traditionally had abundant water. The Commission appreciates hearing how these water shortages are affecting local citizens and their concerns for the future.

The Grand Prairie Area Demonstration project was developed to supply water to sustain irrigated agriculture and sustain the aquifers into the future without harming the environment. The Corps is currently working to construct the on-farm features of the project with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the White River Regional Irrigation Water Distribution District, and local citizens.

The President's budget request for Fiscal Year 2003 does not include funding to continue and/or complete this effort. The budget request for the Mississippi River and Tributaries project focuses on its main stem components and studies and projects whose outputs are related to flood control, navigation, and environmental restoration.

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The Commission appreciates receiving your comments 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