

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

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 support for the Bayou Meto Basin, Arkansas, project and provided a brief update on the project.

The Memphis District is working with all participating Federal, state, and local partners on the general reevaluation of this project. 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.

The Commission recognizes the efforts of the Bayou Meto Regional Irrigation Water Distribution District to secure non-Federal funding in Fiscal Year 2002 for the expeditious completion of the general reevaluation and in the formation of an improvement project area to meet the non-Federal requirements for project sponsorship.

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