

Dear Mayor Tregle:

Thank you for your comments during the Mississippi River Commission public meeting in Houma, Louisiana, on August 23, 2002. In your statement you discussed several items of concern to the Morgan City area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue to investigate and evaluate means to improve the operability of the channel at Morgan City. Placement of maintenance dredging material on the west side of the cut should help the situation since the near-shore currents move from east to west.

The Corps initiated a 3-year feasibility study of the deepening of the Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black project in May 2002. We will address navigation benefits and environmental restoration benefits in this study. There is potential for environmental restoration benefits from the beneficial use of dredged material.

The Commission realizes that Morgan City is pursuing Congressional authorization to upgrade the currently authorized Project Visitor Center to a Type A Regional Visitor Center. The New Orleans District will pursue work for the center, pending Congressional authorization, appropriation of funds for design and construction, and execution of a Project Cooperation Agreement.

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Thank you again for your presentation. The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and looks forward to hearing from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee, Mississippi

River Commission