

Dear Mr. Weldon:

Thank you for participating in the Mississippi River Commission public meeting held in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on August 13, 2001.

We appreciate your testimony and the opportunity to answer your questions about the Pool 8 drawdown project and low water levels. The St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, became aware of erroneous readings from the water control gage at La Crosse on the morning of August 13 and dispatched a crew to investigate the problem. Personnel discovered that the gage well and the pipe connecting the well to the river had become clogged with sediment. On August 14, a crew from the La Crosse wastewater treatment plant cleaned out the gage well and pipe, thus allowing the gage to be back in operation that afternoon. Water levels at the La Crosse gage were restored to the 4.2-foot (630.5 mean sea level) target drawdown level by 8:00 a.m. on August 15. The St. Paul District will begin raising levels again beginning on September 17, at which time the La Crosse gage will rise slowly over a 10-day period to the normal pool level of 4.7 feet. Refilling of the pool will be complete by September 27.

Your observations will be considered by the Corps and other river resource management agencies as part of the evaluation of the drawdown and its future use as a management tool.

Your interest in the Mississippi River and the work of the Commission is commendable. We look forward to working with you as we continue to address the complex economic, environmental, and recreational uses of the upper Mississippi River.

Sincerely,

Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
President Designee,
Mississippi
River Commission