

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in West Memphis, Arkansas, on August 19, 2003. In your statement you expressed strong support for a demonstration project to be located along the Obion River. You also requested that funds in the approximate amount of \$11 million that were transferred out of West Tennessee be transferred back in at the appropriate time.

The Memphis District staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in contact with Mr. David Salyers, Executive Director of West Tennessee River Basin Authority. Mr. Salyers is a strong advocate for a watershed demonstration project in the Obion River system. We believe that a successful demonstration project can lead to the reformulation of the entire project in the remainder of the Obion-Forked Deer River Basin. We appreciate your unwavering support as we move forward to an environmentally sustainable project.

The Administration's budget for the Mississippi River and Tributaries program directs funding to the high priority flood control projects on the mainstem of the Mississippi River and in the Atchafalaya River basin (in Louisiana). Fiscal Year 2003 appropriations included \$100,000 in funding to continue coordination with resource agencies and stakeholders on the West Tennessee Tributaries project. The Fiscal Year 2004 President's budget did not include funding for this project.

-2-

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments 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