

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for your comments before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 20, 2001.

Your comments regarding a regulating works project on the middle Mississippi River are timely recognizing the ongoing efforts to develop a Comprehensive Management Plan for the upper Mississippi River between Cairo, Illinois, and St. Paul, Minnesota. The Comprehensive Management Plan will be used as a framework for environmental sustainability of the river's navigation system, ecosystem, and floodplain. This plan could serve as a means to integrate navigation and environmental projects on the middle Mississippi River as suggested in your remarks. The Corps of Engineers study team will be working through a collaborative process with all stakeholders of the upper Mississippi River during the next few months to prepare an interim report on the Comprehensive Management Plan by July 2002. We look forward to your participation in this effort.

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

Sincerely,

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