

Dear Mr. Zeringue:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held in Morgan City, Louisiana, on August 22, 2003. The following paragraphs address your concerns.

The New Orleans District received the permit application for the levee work on October 22, 2003. The District looks forward to working with the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District (TLCD) and its representatives to provide a quick response.

You have previously indicated that TLCD expects to receive work-in-kind credit for the advance work that TLCD plans to perform. Please be aware that there is no existing statutory authority to provide a credit for work performed in advance of Congressional approval and execution of a cost-sharing agreement with the Corps of Engineers. Specific Congressional authorization will be required for the Corps to provide work-in-kind credit for work performed by the non-Federal sponsor. Thus, should TLCD decide to proceed with work at this time, we will be unable to afford credit absent the enactment of specific Congressional authorization allowing such credit.

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