

Dear Mr. Zeringue:

Thank you for your presentation during the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission in Morgan City, Louisiana, on August 23, 2001. In your statement you discussed the Morganza to the Gulf Study and Houma Navigation Canal Study.

As a result of our coordination with the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and our Corps Headquarters, we have determined that the 100-year plan is the National Economic Development plan. We are in the process of withdrawing our request for an exception to policy and requesting approval to initiate the public review period. The Chief of Engineers' report could be available by June 2002.

Preliminary evaluation of a 20-foot-deep channel in the Houma Navigation Canal indicates that the project, with a benefit-to-cost ratio of approximately 2 to 1, is economically justified. The New Orleans District will initiate a navigation study with Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to investigate the proposed action in greater detail. The study duration is 12 to 18 months.

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