



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Mississippi Valley Division

News Release

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION SCHEDULES HIGH-WATER INSPECTION TRIP

VICKSBURG, Miss., March 31, 1999 -- Members of the Mississippi River Commission will conduct their annual "high-water" inspection trip on the Mississippi River, April 12-16, 1999.

Four public meetings have been scheduled aboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI in selected towns along the river so members of the commission can keep in touch with local citizens and get first-hand feedback from residents. The meeting places, dates and times are as follows:

- g April 12 8:30 a.m. Cairo, Ill., at the foot of Eighth Street
- g April 13 8:30 a.m. Memphis, Tenn., at the city front
- g April 14 3:00 p.m. Vicksburg, Miss., at the city front
- g April 16 8:30 a.m. New Orleans, La., at the Corps District Office dock,
Foot of Prytania Street

All meetings will be open to the public. Local interests are invited to present their views and suggestions on any matters pertaining to the Flood Control, Mississippi River and Tributaries project. The agenda for each public meeting will be as follows:

1. Status report on general conditions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project.
2. District Commander's report on the Mississippi River and Tributaries project at Cairo, Ill.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.
3. Presentations by public participants.

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2-2-2-2 HIGH-WATER TRIP

The MRC, organized in 1879, is composed of seven members, each nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. Three of the organization's members are officers of the Corps of Engineers; one member is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and three members are civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

General duties of the commission include recommendation of policy and work programs, the study of and reporting upon the necessity for modifications or additions to the flood control and navigation project, recommendation upon any matters authorized by law, and inspection of the river during the year. The charter of the commission, as established in 1879, extended the entire length of the Mississippi River from its headwaters to Head of Passes. Since authorization of the extensive MR&T Project on the lower river, the primary focus of the commission has been the alluvial valley of the Mississippi River from Cape Girardeau, Mo., to the Gulf of Mexico. The commission usually inspects the lower river and holds public hearings twice each year, once in the spring during high water, and in late summer or early fall during low water.

The purpose of the public meetings is to keep an exchange of viewpoints and ideas flowing from the public to the Corps. Presentations by the public are made orally, but a copy of the remarks should be presented to the commission for the official record.