



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®

Mississippi Valley Division

[www.mvd.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil)

# News Release

Release #99-10

For Release: July 16, 1999

POC: Pam Clark,

Phone: 601-634-7783

[cemvd-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cemvd-pa@usace.army.mil)

## Secretary Babbitt to tour Lower Mississippi Valley

VICKSBURG, Miss., July 16, 1999 -- U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Dr. Joseph W. Westphal will tour several U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) projects in the lower Mississippi Valley July 19-21.

The two administration officials will visit USACE water projects along the Mississippi River in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana to obtain further understanding of the environmental and economic characteristics of the Corps' multi-purpose projects in the lower Mississippi Valley. The trip will include tours of St. Francis Lake and St. Francis Basin Mitigation Lands (Arkansas), St. Johns Bayou-New Madrid Floodway (Missouri), the Yazoo Backwater Area (Mississippi), Delta National Forest (Mississippi), Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Structure (coastal Louisiana) and various sites in the Atchafalaya Basin (Louisiana), and other sites. They will also be shown an overview of the diverse and vast Mississippi River ecosystem.

Secretary Babbitt and Assistant Secretary Westphal will hold a media availability conference from 2:45-3:45 p.m. July 21 in the lobby of the New Orleans Lakefront Airport in New Orleans, Louisiana, to discuss their observations of the trip and to answer questions.