



**US Army Corps
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Mississippi Valley Division

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION SCHEDULES LOW-WATER INSPECTION TRIP

VICKSBURG, Miss., July 29, 1999 -- Members of the Mississippi River Commission will conduct their annual "low-water" inspection trip on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, August 23 - September 3, 1999.

Seven 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:

- August 24 8:30 a.m. Winona, Minn., at City Front
- August 25 9:00 a.m. Dubuque, Iowa, at Ice Harbor
- August 27 1:30 p.m. Alton, Ill., at Melvin Price Locks and Dam
- August 30 1:30 p.m. New Madrid, Mo., at City Front
- August 31 8:30 a.m. Memphis, Tenn., at City Front
- September 1 8:30 a.m. Greenville, Miss., at City Front
- September 3 9:30 a.m. Houma, La., at Cenac Towing Company Dock

All meetings will be open to the public. The agenda for each public meeting will be as follows:

1. President of the Commission will present a summary of national and regional issues affecting the Corps of Engineers and Commission programs and projects

on the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

2. District Commander will present an overview of current project issues in the respective district area.

3. Local organizations and any members of the public will have an opportunity to make presentations or offer views or comments on any issue affecting programs or projects of the Commission and the Corps.

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 making inspection trips. The duties of the Commission, as established in 1879, included 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. This inspection trip, beginning August 23, will include the upper Mississippi River, beginning at Winona, Minn., and ending at Houma, La., on the Gulf Intra-coastal Waterway.

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.