



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Mississippi Valley Division  
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# News Release

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## Decision Made on Mississippi River Levees Lawsuit

VICKSBURG, Miss., September 9, 1999 -- On September 8, 1999, the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Louisiana released its judgment in favor of the defendants in the lawsuit filed by the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund, Inc., in December of 1998.

Defendants listed in the lawsuit were H. Martin Lancaster, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Major General Pat M. Stevens IV, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Major General Robert B. Flowers, Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Engineer Division, Lower Mississippi Valley Division; Colonel Gary W. Wright, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Earth Justice lawsuit challenged the adequacy of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Corps' Mississippi River Mainline Levee Enlargement and Berm Construction Project. The project consists of 1,610 miles of authorized levees and berms and associated seepage control measures along the Mississippi River in seven states.

Judge Mary Ann Vial Lemmon stated in her conclusion that "The Corps' supplemental environmental impact statement complies with the process required by NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) because it provides to the public detailed information concerning the environmental impacts and explores and evaluates all reasonable alternatives."

In response to Judge Lemmon's decision, Major General Phillip R. Anderson, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, said "I had great confidence in the adequacy of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Vicksburg District and I am delighted with the court's decision."