



# News Release

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®

Mississippi Valley Division

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## **Corps' Mississippi Valley Division to host Mississippi River Partnering Conference - Join the Dialogue**

VICKSBURG, Miss., April 25, 2000-- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, will host a Mississippi River Partnering Conference and Regional Listening Session in St. Louis, Mo., June 15-17, 2000.

The conference is open to representatives from all levels of government, organizations or associations, stakeholders and concerned citizens having an interest in the river. Participants will address the needs, priorities and opportunities related to water resources in the Mississippi River Valley. Promoting understanding and cooperation through partnerships among all parties along the river's corridor will also be a conference objective.

Included as part of the conference, is a Corps hosted regional listening session. This facilitated workshop will offer participants the opportunity to interact with others to discuss and define the water resource challenges for the Mississippi River and the nation. Come and join the dialogue on key issues regarding the nation's water resources.

The following major challenges have been identified as a starting point for discussions during the listening session:

**Aging Infrastructure** - The investment in the nation's water infrastructure has not kept pace with the demands placed upon it. Much work needs to be done to keep pace with the growing demands and to maintain the waterway infrastructure for the future.

**Environmental Restoration** - The environment is still suffering from past actions. Much remains to be done to clean up, restore and improve the environment.

**Emergency Response** - Our nation's capability to respond to natural disasters is being stretched.

**Marine Transportation System** - Tonnage passing through harbors is expected to double in 20 years. We are near capacity now. We must improve the capability of our marine transportation system.

**Flood Control** - Flooding is worsening as development continues in flood-prone areas and along coastlines.

**Water and Sewer Systems** - Water supply and sewer systems are crumbling. Finding and protecting clean sources from contamination is becoming harder to do.

For more information on the conference, you may call Mr. Jim Sherman III, 601-634-5079, or Ms. Esther Banks, 601-634-5823. You may also visit our website at <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil>.