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Project Manager: Denny Lundberg
(309) 794-5632

Public Affairs Office: Ron Fournier
(309) 794-5274

Draft Navigation Study Report Completed

ROCK ISLAND, ILL. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a draft of the Interim Report of the restructured Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System Navigation Feasibility Study.

The Draft Interim Report provides a blueprint for moving forward with the feasibility study to ensure the Mississippi and Illinois rivers continue to be a nationally treasured ecological resource, as well as an effective transportation system.

The study has been restructured to provide for equal consideration of fish and wildlife resources, along with navigation improvement planning. It will be comprehensive and holistic as it considers the multiple purposes of this system and will seek a robust strategy that will work well under a variety of scenarios.

The restructured study and the Interim Report are being accomplished under a new spirit of collaboration among the stakeholders of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System. This draft is being provided for review and comment to stakeholders actively working on this restructured effort. This draft is also available on the navigation study website to provide the public with information on the status of this study.

This Draft Interim Report provides a history of past study activities; the purpose of the restructuring; initial plan formulation activities including establishment of goals, objectives and alternatives; and identifies implementation issues.

Preliminary conclusions and recommendations contained in this draft report are an initial attempt to identify common themes or issues and present possible solutions for their resolution. This review process, and ongoing collaborative discussions with partners and stakeholders, will likely result in refinement or additions to the report.

The final Interim Report is scheduled for completion in July 2002 and the feasibility study is scheduled for completion in 2004. A complete set of comments and responses will be posted to the Navigation Study website after completion of the interim report in July.

For more information about the Draft Interim Report for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study, contact the study manager, Denny Lundberg, at (309) 794-5632, the Rock Island District, Public Affairs Office at (309) 794-5274, or visit the web site at: <http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/umr-iwwsns/>.

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