



News Release

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Mississippi Valley Division Conducts Project Review

VICKSBURG, Miss., May 23, 2002 -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Director of Civil Works, Maj. Gen. Robert H. Griffin, Washington, D.C., directed a nationwide pause on April 30 as a result of recent questions regarding the accuracy and currency of economic analyses, the validity of other plan formulation decisions and the rigor of the review process for some projects.

Under review are projects that the Congress has authorized but are not yet under construction. They fall into two categories:

1. Those with an economic assessment older than 1999. These will have a new economic analysis before they can proceed.
2. Those with credible indications of changes in economic conditions or other engineering, scientific or environmental information. These will be reviewed and the analyses updated as appropriate.

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From a regional perspective, the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division identified ten projects that appeared to meet category 1 criteria. Of those ten, four projects, all within the New Orleans District, were already undergoing an economic review. The economic review for Amite River and Tributaries, Comite River Basin Project, is scheduled to be completed by mid-June 2002. The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, La., project and the Grand Isle, La., project are currently undergoing a General Reevaluation study, which includes an economic analysis. The East Baton Rouge Parish, La., project has an approved and current economic analysis, but estimated cost increases for construction will require Congressional re-authorization of the project. The remaining six projects, if funded, will undergo a new economic analysis during the course of the Corps' normal planning process.

In category 2, the Mississippi Valley Division identified ten projects for consideration of potential credible changes in economic conditions or engineering, scientific or environmental information that might impact project justification or support of these projects. Of these ten projects, five were found to have an approved and current economic analysis with no credible changes, and the remaining five projects were already undergoing re-evaluation.

The Mississippi Valley Division will continue to monitor the validity of economic analyses to ensure the most effective, efficient and environmentally sustainable water resources projects are constructed.

The Mississippi Valley Division includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The [Mississippi Valley Division](#) includes six district offices, which are responsible for conducting programs and activities and are located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.