

REMARKS OF BG EDWIN J. ARNOLD, JR.  
BEFORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER CAUCUS  
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**Chairman Hulshof, Chairman Boswell, and distinguished members, I would like to thank the Caucus for the opportunity to appear before you today. The Corps of Engineers has a long history of conducting studies and recommending projects that balance competing values and interests, develop alternative solutions that solve recognized problems and establish a broad consensus for the best solution. We strongly believe our leadership, engineering and water resources skills and disciplined planning are central to solving real problems and serving the American people.**

**Since my predecessor, MG Anderson, appeared before you approximately a year ago, a number of internal and external reviews have been conducted on the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study. The Corps of Engineers takes the issues of these reviews seriously. We are committed to ensuring the integrity of the Corps of Engineers and its study process.**

**It is important to note that the Corps had not completed its evaluations when the various reviews and investigations began. Neither the Army Inspector General nor the National Research Council's review committee had the benefit of a draft report to review; it was a preliminary working document. The flowchart in your folder**

**shows where we are in the planning process. I am confident the checks and balances provided by our existing process as well as those additional measures being added will ensure that the public, the Administration, and the Congress are provided with the data and information necessary to make an informed decision on the future needs of the Upper Mississippi Navigation Study.**

**The Navigation study has been conducted consistent with our normal planning process. Other Federal agencies have participated on a regional basis. Due to the significant national implications of this project, we recognize that these agencies must be involved at the national level to address the economic and environmental issues critical to the study. To further this effort we are augmenting the management structure of the Navigation study by inviting a wide array of Federal agencies that have jurisdictional interest in this matter to participate more actively in the study. The Corps will continue to lead the study, but this group will provide national level balance and guidance on important economic and environmental issues. In fact, an initial meeting of these agencies was held yesterday to begin the consultation process. We are also convening a similar group at the regional level composed of our own Corps professionals, those from other agencies, the states and non-governmental organizations such as industry and environmental**

**groups. We believe that by leveraging the experience and perspectives of these agencies within the aforementioned groups, on matters within their area of expertise, the Corps can complete the study in a more integrated and collaborative manner. We envision these groups to be engaged for the duration of the study. In addition, within the corps itself, we are forming a Planning and Policy oversight team with multi-district, division and HQ representation to provide planning and policy guidance to the project manager and the project delivery team and to monitor study direction for consistency with other major Corps projects.**

**We will also reactivate the Plan Formulation Steering Committee to provide oversight and enhanced quality control of the study plan formulation process.**

**Each of these groups will be used to help assess the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) review committee's recommendations and help make a determination of what is appropriate to include in the study. The NAS review committee's report addresses some very complex issues relating to the environmental and economic aspects of the study. Many of these issues are not new and have been debated throughout the planning process. The review committee**

**recognized the difficulty of tackling these issues and commended the study team for undertaking them and making important advances. Still, the most important question we now face is how we balance the need for additional data to support the study models with the time and resources required to collect this data. We are in the process of developing a plan for completion of the feasibility study. This plan will include how to best address the issues in the NAS report and complete the feasibility study as expeditiously as possible. The groups we are bringing together are critical to developing a plan for completion of the study.**

**Colonel Bill Bayles, Commander of the Rock Island District, will discuss the public involvement efforts of the feasibility study. I will be happy to answer any questions that you have.**