



Mississippi River Commission Public Meeting and Inspection Trip Speaker Guidance

Thank you for your interest in attending and/or speaking at the MRC's upcoming inspection trip. The following is guidance to assist you in providing testimony to the commission. Public hearings provide opportunity for you to present your cause, issues, and accolades in an open dialogue format.

For each speaker to have an opportunity to present, we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines:

- Meetings begin promptly at scheduled times, unless the Commission extends or changes the time.
- Verbal presentations should be kept to not more than 5 minutes and should summarize the main points in your formal statement.
- Commissioners may comment and/or ask you questions regarding your topic.
- Power Points are acceptable. However, keep them to not more than three slides.
- All comments need to be spoken into the microphone at the podium.
- Formal statements submitted for the record must be signed.
- Commissioners cannot accept gifts.
- Following the public hearing, a stenographer will then transcribe each public meeting as testimony becomes public record.
- **Due to COVID precautions, we are limiting participants. Participation is based on the following priorities: individuals providing testimony, elected officials, staff members of elected officials, and the general public. If you are unable to attend in person, we strongly encourage you to provide testimony for the record.**
- If an emergency arises during the public hearing and we must evacuate, follow the directions of the MV Mississippi staff.
- To maintain safety, we ask that you remember the following:
 - When climbing steps, always maintain three points of contact.
 - Stay within guide rails and do not cross over blocked areas.
 - Vessel doors are very heavy. Use two hands to open doors and seek assistance if necessary.

(Current as of August 2021)