



# MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

April 16, 2010

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 80  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

## STATEMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION RIVER DIVERSIONS

### PRESIDENT and MEMBER

\*Brig. Gen.(P) Michael J. Walsh  
*Commander, Mississippi  
Valley Division*  
Vicksburg, Mississippi

### MEMBERS

\*Honorable Sam E. Angel  
*Civilian*  
Lake Village, Arkansas

Honorable R. D. James  
*Civilian/Civil Engineer*  
New Madrid, Missouri

\*Honorable Wm. Clifford Smith  
*Civilian/Civil Engineer*  
Houma, Louisiana

\*Rear Adm. Jonathan W. Bailey  
*National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration*  
Silver Spring, Maryland

\*Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody  
*Commander, Great Lakes &  
Ohio River Division*  
Cincinnati, Ohio

\*Brig. Gen. John R. McMahon  
*Commander, Northwestern  
Division*  
Portland, Oregon

### SECRETARY

Col. George T. Shepard Jr.  
*Vicksburg, Mississippi*

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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\* designee

Congress created the Mississippi River Commission with the mandate to remake the Mississippi River into a safe and reliable commercial artery while protecting adjacent lands from overflow. Section 4 of the 1879 Act granted this Commission extensive authority as follows:

It shall be the duty of said commission to take into consideration and mature such plan or plans and estimates as will correct, permanently locate, and deepen the channel and protect the banks of the Mississippi River; improve and give safety and ease to the navigation thereof; prevent destructive floods; promote and facilitate commerce, trade, and the postal service...

More than 130 years later, this Commission with its partners and stakeholders, has realized this ambitious assignment through the implementation of the comprehensive Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project. Since its initiation, the MR&T project has brought an unprecedented degree of flood protection to the lower Mississippi valley, while facilitating navigation and promoting commerce on the nation's vital commercial artery.

The Mississippi River Commission has authority under Section 14 of the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Act, Sections 8 and 9 of the 1928 Flood Control Act, and Division Regulation 415-2-3, to manage and approve proposed alterations to the flood control features of the MR&T project.

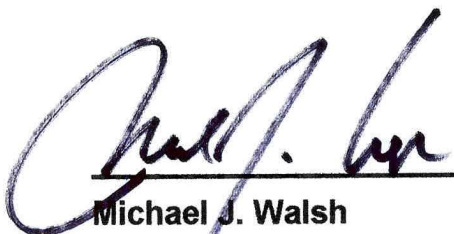
Since 1879, the seven-member Presidentially appointed Mississippi River Commission has developed and matured plans for the general improvement of the Mississippi River from the Head of Passes to the Headwaters. The Mississippi River Commission brings critical engineering representation to the drainage basin, which impacts 41% of the United States and includes 1.25 million square miles, over 250 tributaries, 31 states, and 2 Canadian provinces.

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Recent studies in the vicinity of Myrtle Grove, Magnolia, Venice, and the Head of Passes, which include detailed field analysis and model simulation by the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, the University of Texas, and other noted scientists and engineers, have demonstrated the complexity of the hydraulics and sediment transport in the lower Mississippi River.

This Commission believes that sound engineering should follow science. Considering our mandate to provide a safe and reliable navigation channel and our obligation to approve all alterations to the MR&T project, this Commission recommends that any future diversions on the Mississippi River be constructed so that they can be controlled, modified, and monitored.

**Mississippi River Commission**  
**River Diversions**  
**April 16, 2010**



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**Michael J. Walsh**  
**Brigadier General(P), U.S. Army**  
**President Designee, Mississippi**  
**River Commission**  
**Vicksburg, MS**



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**Hon. Sam E. Angel**  
**Senior Civilian Member**  
**Lake Village, AR**



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**Hon. R. D. James**  
**Civilian Member, Engineer**  
**New Madrid, MO**



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**Hon. Wm. Clifford Smith**  
**Civilian Member, Engineer**  
**Houma, LA**



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**RADM Jonathan W. Bailey**  
**Member Designee**  
**National Oceanic &**  
**Atmospheric Administration**  
**Silver Spring, MD**

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**John W. Peabody**  
**Major General, U.S. Army**  
**Member Designee**  
**Great Lakes & Ohio River Division**  
**Cincinnati, OH**

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**John R. McMahon**  
**Brigadier General, U.S. Army**  
**Member Designee**  
**Northwestern Division**  
**Portland, OR**



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