



US Army Corps of Engineers®

Mississippi Valley Division/
Mississippi River Commission

cemvd-pa@mvd02.usace.army.mil

Release# 01-16

For Release: August 2, 2001

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Phone: 601-634-5760/7783

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM NAVIGATION STUDY RESUMES

VICKSBURG, Miss., August 2, 2001-- Today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, announced that it has been instructed by the Director of Civil Works, Brig. Gen.(P) Robert H. Griffin, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C., with the concurrence of the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, and the acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Mr. Dominic Izzo, to resume the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study.

The refocused study will be modified to emphasize environmentally sustainable use of the river and to address concerns raised by the National Research Council (NRC) in February 2001.

The Chief of Engineers paused the study in March 2001 to consider recommendations made by the NRC and others on the economic and environmental analyses. The pause also allowed Flowers to invite Washington-level representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Transportation (Maritime Administration) to provide a broader Federal perspective on the needs of the river basin and to advise the Corps on how to best address the NRC recommendations.

-more-

The Corps will develop a comprehensive plan in phases for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System to meet the nation's navigation needs, while providing for ecosystem restoration and improvements. In approximately one year, the Corps will complete an interim report that will contain the scope of the comprehensive plan as well as recommendations for continued navigation and environmental planning. The Corps' study process will continue to be collaborative, with a high degree of interagency and public participation.

The Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, headquartered in Vicksburg, Miss., will be responsible for the study. The course of action recommended in the final study report will be reviewed and approved by the Chief of Engineers before submittal to the Administration and Congress.

Congress has declared the upper Mississippi River to be both a nationally significant ecosystem and navigation system. "The refocused study will emphasize the nation's need to sustain both a quality ecosystem and an effective navigation system," said Brig. Gen. Ed Arnold, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division. "This redirection is necessary to ensure that any recommended improvements will meet both objectives."

Reference: www.mvr.usace.army.mil for updated information.