



**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
Rock Island District**

**Release No. 03-20
October 16, 2003
For Release**

News Release

**Project Manager: Denny Lundberg
(309) 794-5632**

**Public Affairs Office: Ron Fournier
(309) 794-5274**

Public Input Sought on River Improvement Plans

ROCK ISLAND, ILL. – Future plans for the nation’s most renowned river system are the spotlight of discussion during a series of seven public meetings as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seeks public input on its navigation study.

Capping more than a decade of study, analysis and an unprecedented level of collaboration, the public has an opportunity to see, learn about and comment on tentative alternative plans designed to ensure sustainability of the navigation and ecosystems of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking input at a critical decision point in a complex study that seeks to define the future navigation and ecosystem needs of the two rivers. The public will provide input on factors affecting the decision process, preliminary analysis of alternatives, and evaluation criteria for assessing plans.

The study team will gather input on the spectrum of alternatives presented and consider those comments, along with the input of other stakeholders in the river system, to narrow the list of options to a single, integrated recommended plan. Details of that plan will be documented in the Upper Mississippi River – Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study Draft Feasibility Report scheduled for release in April 2004.

The last time the Corps of Engineers laid out a series of tentative plans for public input, the study was singularly focused on navigation efficiency. The Corps restructured the study in late 2001 to take a more holistic approach toward the relationship between the environment, navigation and the floodplain. The tentative alternative plans presented this month incorporate more than a decade of work and collaboration by many leading engineers, economists, fisheries experts and other scientists who have participated in the complex evaluation of the river system needs and opportunities. The alternatives reflect the study's balanced approach as well as an unprecedented level of cooperation among various government agencies and private organizations. The meetings continue the study’s collaboration with the public.

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT

2/2/2

Meeting Locations, Dates and Times

All Meetings:

- 3 - 5 p.m. – Open House
- 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. – Corps Presentation
- 7:15 - 8 p.m. – Questions and Answers
- 8 - 8:30 p.m. – Completion of Comment Sheets
- 8:30 p.m. - Close – General Questions & Statements

October 20 - St. Louis, Missouri

Spazio Westport
12031 Lackland Road
St. Louis, MO
314-576-0488

October 21 - Quincy, Illinois

River's Edge Hall
1231 Bonansinga Drive
Quincy, IL
217-223-2353

October 22 - Peoria, Illinois

Holiday Inn Peoria I-74 @ Northwoods Mall
4400 North Brandywine Drive
Peoria, IL
309-686-8000

October 23 - Davenport, Iowa

Holiday Inn Davenport
5202 Brady Street
Davenport, Iowa
563-391-1230

October 28 - Bloomington, Minnesota

Ramada Inn (Thunderbird Convention Center)
2201 E 78th Street
Bloomington, MN
866-608-9330

October 29 - La Crosse, Wisconsin

Best Western Midway Hotel
1835 Rose Street
La Crosse, WI
608-781-7000

October 30 - Dubuque, Iowa

Holiday Inn – Five Flags
450 Main St
Dubuque, IA
563-556-2000

The meeting structure allows for informal discussion with study team members and collaborative partners, question-and-answer sessions, time to complete a comment sheet, and the opportunity to make a brief statement. All comments will be compiled and considered during the process of selecting an integrated plan for a sustainable future.

To obtain the latest information, current status reports, monitor, comment, and participate in the study, visit the World Wide Web at: www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/umr-iwwsns. For more information about the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study, contact the Project Manager, Denny Lundberg, at (309) 794-5632; or the Rock Island District Public Affairs Office at (309) 794-5274.