



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact:
Mary Markos, 636-899-0052 / 913-634-1517
Mary.Markos@usace.army.mil

Mississippi River Commission schedules Public Hearing in Cape Girardeau, August 16

August 11, St. Louis – The Mississippi River Commission will hold a public hearing August 16 at the Cape Girardeau, Mo., riverfront as part of its annual low-water inspection trip.

The Mississippi River Commission is conducting its annual low-water inspection trip August 8-20, 2010. As part of the trip, a series of public hearings are being conducted at various locations along the Mississippi River onboard the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI. The Cape Girardeau, public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m.

The agenda for the public meeting will be as follows:

1. President of the commission will present a summary of national and regional issues affecting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries.
2. Col Tom O'Hara, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District Commander, will present an overview of current project issues in the St. Louis district.
3. Local organizations and members of the public will have an opportunity to make presentations or offer views or comments on any issue affecting programs or projects of the commission and the Corps as noted above.

The commission conducts the hearings to maintain a dialogue and to exchange viewpoints and ideas with stakeholders and the public. All hearings are open to the public. Local interests are invited to present their views and suggestions on matters affecting the water resources infrastructure needs in the Mississippi Valley, including flood protection, environmental issues, recreation and navigation.

This process allows the public a greater voice in shaping federal management policy of the river. Presentations by the public are made orally, but a copy of the remarks should be presented to the commission for the official record. The public hearing process is unique to the Mississippi River Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The benefits of hearing firsthand the issues and concerns through the public hearing process are invaluable to the commission and the Corps. Also, the interaction with congressional, federal and state interests, local boards and non-government organizations and the public is crucial to the decision-making process of the commission.

The MRC, established in 1879, is composed of seven members, each nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. Three of the organization's members are officers of the Corps of Engineers; one member is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and three members are civilians, two of whom are civil engineers.

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General duties of the Mississippi River Commission include making recommendations on policy and work programs, studying and reporting on whether modifications or additions are needed for flood control and navigation projects, providing recommendations on any matters authorized by law, and making semi-annual inspection trips.

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Editor's Note: Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh is available for media interviews 15 minutes before and after the public hearing. If you are interested in arranging an opportunity to interview Maj. Gen. Walsh, please contact the St. Louis District's Public Affairs Office at 314-331-8002/8068 or Mary Markos at 636-899-0052 or 913-634-1517. Additional information about the Mississippi River Commission is available online at www.mvd.usace.army.mil.