



REPLY TO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

OCT 06 2009

Hydrologic and Hydraulics Branch
Engineering and Construction Division

Dr. Nicholas Pinter
Department of Geology
Parkinson Laboratory-Mailcode 4324
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
1259 Lincoln Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4324

Dr. Jonathan Remo
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Department of Geology
Parkinson Laboratory-Mailcode 4324
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
1259 Lincoln Drive
Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4324

Dear Sirs:

I have received your correspondence dated September 16, 2009 (enclosed), in response to my letter of September 10, 2009 (enclosed). If I understand your position correctly, it appears you are refusing to provide the data and modeling which served as the basis of your 2007 publication "Retro-modeling of the Middle Mississippi River" to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. To ensure that I correctly understand your response, I request your confirmation that my interpretation is correct.

As far back as June 12, 2008, in a face-to-face meeting with my predecessor, Colonel Lewis Setliff, you committed to providing this information to the Corps. Again on March 19, 2009, in a workshop facilitated by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, you again committed to an honest and open exchange of information. Your current correspondence appears to state that, in spite of prior commitments, you intend to withhold that information from the Corps.

Because of the gravity of the allegations that you have made and continue to make, with respect to public safety, the Corps is keenly interested in full analysis of your research. To do so requires the model and data you employed. I am therefore renewing my request for that information, or, in the alternative, confirmation that you do not intend to provide it to the Corps. If you have any questions, please contact my Project Manager, Ms. June Jeffries at (314) 331-8349 or e-mail her at june.m.jeffries@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure

Copies Furnished:

Dr. Steven Esling, Chair, Department of Geology, Parkinson Laboratory-Mailcode 4324,
Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1259 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4324

Dr. Ramanarayanan Viswanathan, Interim Dean, College of Engineering, 1230 Lincoln
Drive, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1230 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, Illinois
62901-4324

Dr. Richard Sparks, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center at Lewis and Clark
Community College, 5800 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, Illinois 62035

Mr. David Harris, Hydrologic Engineering Center, Chief, H&H Division, Room: C3, 609 Second
Street, Davis, California 95616

Dr. Samuel Goldman, Office of the Chancellor, Mailcode 4304, Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Mr. David Conrad, National Wildlife Federation, National Advocacy Center, 901 E. Street NW,
Suite 400, Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Alan Dunstan, Chair, Board of Directors, East-West Gateway Council of Governments,
157 North Main Street, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025

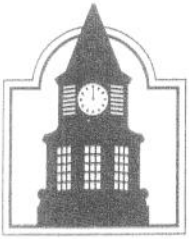
Dr. Gerald Galloway, BG, U. S. Army (Ret.), Department of Civil and Environmental
Engineering, University of Maryland, 1173 Glenn L. Martin Hall, College Park,
Maryland 20742

Mr. Kevin Hutchinson, President, Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors, 208 S. Rapp
Avenue, Columbia, Illinois 62236

Ms. Kim McGuire, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 900 N. Tucker, St. Louis, Missouri 63101
Honorable Alvin Parks, Mayor, City of East St. Louis, 301 East Broadway Avenue,
East St. Louis, Illinois 62201

Mr. Steven Roady, Earthjustice, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 702,
Washington, DC 20036

Honorable Francis Slay, Mayor, City of St. Louis, 1200 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103
Brigadier General Michael J. Walsh, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, USACE,
P.O. Box 80, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39181-0080



Southern
Illinois University
Carbondale

Department of Geology
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL, 62901, USA
Phone 618 453 7375
Fax 618 453 7393
npinter@geo.siu.edu

Sept. 16, 2009

Col. Thomas E. O'Hara
Commander, St. Louis District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Dear Col. O'Hara:

We are in receipt of your letter of 9/10/09 requesting details of one of our Middle Mississippi River hydraulic models, including input data, model files, and calibration and validation results. Your letter states that these data are required in order for the Corps of Engineers to review the 2007 Remo and Pinter paper in Journal of Hydrology. We welcome evaluation of these issues, but reiterate that this must come in the context of an independent scientific review – independent as defined in the Corps' own guidelines – by a body such as the National Research Council. Your office and your staff have repeatedly rebuffed requests for such a review, instead relying upon opinions by Corps personnel and examination by your own paid consultants.

Please note that General Gerald Galloway (Ret.), former President of the Mississippi Valley Commission and Chair of the 1993 Interagency Floodplain Management Review Committee, has formally endorsed a National Research Council review of the links between river navigation engineering and flooding. This was also a formal, written recommendation of the "Floodplain Connectivity, Flood Control and Hydrologic Regime" panel at the Mississippi River conference in Collinsville, IL on Aug. 10-13, 2009.

The total cost of a National Research Council study would be approximately 6-8% of the funding that the St. Louis District is currently spending building new navigational structures under the 2009 federal stimulus.

We continue to believe that this issue is of the highest importance and that the St. Louis District of the Corps is endangering public safety by on-going construction without due consideration of the science linking navigational engineering structures to large increases in flood levels.

Sincerely:

Prof. Nicholas Pinter

Dr. Jonathan Remo

cc: list on reverse

cc:

Mr. David Conrad, National Wildlife Federation

Mr. Alan Dunstan, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Dr. Steven Esling, Chair of Geology, Southern Illinois University

Prof. Gerald Galloway, Gen., U.S. Army, Ret.

Mr. David Harris, Chief of H&H Division, Hydrologic Engineering Center

Mr. Kevin Hutchinson, President, Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors

Ms. Kim McGuire, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Hon. Alvin Parks, Mayor, City of East St. Louis

Mr. Steven Roady, Earthjustice

Hon. Francis Slay, Mayor, City of St. Louis

Dr. Richard Sparks, Director of Research, National Great Rivers Research and Ed. Center

Mr. Earl Stockdale, Chief Counsel, USACE

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, USACE

Dr. Ramanarayanan Viswanathan, Dean of Engineering, Southern Illinois University

Brig. Gen. Walsh, Mississippi Valley Division, USACE



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10 SEP 2009

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Carbondale, Illinois 62901-4324

Dear Sirs:

On March 19, 2009, the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center facilitated a workshop to promote the exchange of river engineering information, ideas, and scientific data. As requested in conjunction with the workshop, we are still awaiting receipt of a copy of the Hydrologic Engineering Center-River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) "retro model" as well as all of the raw data necessary to replicate the modeling effort that was the basis of your 2007 publication "Retro-modeling of the Middle Mississippi River", *Journal of Hydrology*, 337-421. In order to review the RAS model, please provide the following:

a. All HEC-RAS files developed and used for the calibration analysis from 1900 to 1904. Additionally, all observed data used as boundary conditions, as well as all data for locations used for comparing computed-to-observed stages.

b. All HEC-RAS files developed and used for the verification analysis of 1906. Additionally, all observed data used as boundary conditions, as well as all data for locations used for comparing computed-to-observed stages.

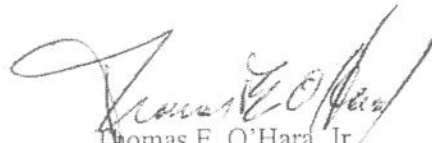
c. All HEC-RAS data files developed and used for the frequency-based event comparison analysis (2-, 5-, 25-, 50-, 100-, and 200-year events).

d. All Excel spreadsheets used for comparing computed-to-observed data for the calibration analysis, verification analysis, and the frequency base event analysis.

The review will be conducted by the Hydrologic Engineering Center. We ask that you provide the model and supporting data directly to Mr. David Harris (David.J.Harris@usace.army.mil, 530-756-1104), mailing address as on page 2 of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact my Project Manager, Ms. June Jeffries at (314)331-8349 or e-mail her at june.m.jeffries@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. O'Hara, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

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Mr. David Harris, Hydrologic Engineering Center, Chief, H&H Division, Room: C3, 609 Second
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