

# **Volume 2**

## **Part 1**

### **Post Scoping Document**



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**Memphis District**

DEPARTMENT OF ARMY  
MEMPHIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

**POST SCOPING DOCUMENT**

**St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, Missouri,  
First Phase Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Meeting held on May 11, 2010, in East Prairie, Missouri.

**Scoping Meeting Summary**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Memphis District, conducted a public scoping meeting for the proposed St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, Missouri, First Phase Project, Environmental Impact Statement. The public scoping meeting was held on May 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at the East Prairie Church of God, 322 North Washington Street, East Prairie, Missouri 63845. The purpose of the meeting was to identify significant issues and determine the scope of issues that need to be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The public scoping meeting was detailed in the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a draft EIS which was published in the Federal Register on April 6, 2010. The NOI and scoping meeting information were sent to an organized mailing list built from previous interested parties, environmental groups, local, state and Federal agencies, news media, and other interested stakeholders. The NOI and news release for the public scoping meeting are included in Attachment 1.

There were 92 members of the public that attended the meeting. Upon filling out a registration form, attendees received a handout summarizing the purpose of the meeting and a card with information of whom to contact regarding the project. All attendees were added to the mailing list for subsequent project related notifications. At the meeting, USACE conducted a brief presentation describing the history of the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, Missouri, First Phase Project; potential project features; and the purpose of NEPA and public scoping. The project sponsor, St. Johns Levee and Drainage District, summarized their role in the project. Information from the public scoping meeting, including handouts, contact information, and presentations are included in Attachment 2.

At the conclusion of the presentations, meeting attendees were divided into three small groups to provide oral comments to USACE facilitators. The USACE facilitators documented all comments on flip charts. Then, all meeting attendees reconvened back into one group; and the USACE facilitators summarized comments from each group. The majority of comments related to resident hardships/quality of life issues, local economy, agricultural, fish and wildlife. A detailed list of comments is below (\* indicates duplicate/multiple comments).



### **Comments related to Resident Hardships/Quality of Life Issues:**

Concerns with the isolation of local communities resulting from existing flooding, especially in the community of Pinhook. \*\*\*

Concerns with the adverse impacts of flooding to the human population resulting from no action. For example, younger population is moving away because of lack of job opportunities in the area.

Flooding is a major problem in the St. Johns Bayou Basin and New Madrid Floodway. An example of this would be the flooding of roads needed to transport students to and from Matthews Elementary School requiring a longer commute to and from school. Another example would be residents of Pinhook having to travel to the Dorena vicinity and then on the levee to access their homes.\*\*\*

The residents of this area are a much more important issue than the well being of fish and wildlife. An example would be the people that live in the Pinhook community.\*\*\*\*\*

The Corps needs to close the gap as intended by the project proposal or raise sections of Highway FF (and other major roads within St. Johns Bayou Basin and the New Madrid Floodway) so that it will not be impeded by flooding. If the gap is closed, then these road modifications will not be needed.

When it floods in this area, highways FF, 77 and 102 (as well as roads in the Sugar Tree Ridge area) all go under water. These are the three main highways of the area and the flooding damage to these roads is rarely repaired.

Floods cut off access to area – transportation impacts (Hwy 80). This comment related to access to East Prairie. The impounded floodwaters from the closure at New Madrid can overtop Highway 80, impacting delivery of prescriptions to elderly clients by having to detour long distances to make deliveries. There are additional transportation costs related to this that affects business profit margins.

Impacts to Dorena and Wolf Island communities – Businesses and Schools. Most of the comments related to communities had been focused on East Prairie and Pinhook. It was pointed out that there were other area communities that would benefit from flood protection, namely Dorena and Wolf Island.

The Corps needs to construct an outlet (e.g., culverts or some type of outlet structure) in the levee at James Bayou to allow water to drain from this area as well as constructing the levee closure and pump station at the outlet. Currently water backs up from the levee at James Bayou, north to St. Johns Diversion Ditch, then west down Mud Ditch to the 1,500-foot gap.

During a significant flood event portions of Interstate 55 will even become inundated from St. Johns Bayou. This is a major highway and consequences of the interstate's closure (or partial closure) need to be addressed.

Flood Damages/loss of income – crops, subdivision (Painted Road – East Lake). This comment regards backwater flooding in the East Lake area. There is a road in this area that has to have significant maintenance after frequent flood events. There is also flood related crop damage in this area.

Impact to Pinhook property values – people/livelihood. This comment started out solely about how the property values in the Pinhook community would increase if project was constructed. It is extremely difficult to estimate the market value of properties in the Pinhook community because the residents currently cannot find buyers. Basically there is no market. The comment evolved beyond market values to the quality of life in Pinhook and the resident's livelihood.

Quality of life for whole area (region). The overall quality of life in the area is greatly affected by flooding. Local residents lose jobs, their property values plummet, they can't get around in the area, their schools are affected, school kids can't get to school, health care is affected, public services like ambulance, police, and fire are also affected.

School System – transportation access. Students cannot get to school when the area's roads are flooded. This problem is especially bad in the Pinhook community but it is also prevalent in other areas. Even when the roads are passable, there is a definite drowning/injury risk to children if a school bus leaves the road.

School Days missed due to Flooding - Funding Loss. Schools receive funds based on attendance records. When flooding prevents students from attending classes, the schools funds are cut proportionally. This causes schools to have to cut back on necessary services.

Increase Disease – Wildlife/Humans. Both wildlife and humans face increased disease problems due to flooding. One of the main human factors is the backing up of sewers and sanitary systems. This can cause sewage to enter homes and businesses. It also causes it to pollute the surrounding area.

Concerns with the health impacts resulting from existing flooding, especially the high rates of blastomycosis noted in the area.\*

#### **Comments related to Local Economy:**

Concerns with the economic and social impacts resulting from existing flooding, especially the cost of maintaining existing roads after each flood.

Flood control is needed in this area so that the economy (e.g., farming and businesses) will increase.\*\*\*\*\*

If flooding can be controlled then there will be potential for economic development within the project area and the region. Children will not need to leave the area to find work; businesses can safely relocate or be created within the project area.

Flooding affects more than just the farmers and wildlife. Agri-chemical suppliers, grocery stores, etc. are all affected when flooding occurs.

Impact to Taxes. The effect on taxes to the area should also be presented. This is both increased taxes to finance and maintain the project as well as decreased tax expenditures to repair public roads etc. It could also be increased tax revenues associated with increased economic growth.

Flood Impacts to area economy. This comment related to how direct losses from flooding would also affect other areas in the local economy. Those who lost direct income from flooding would lose money that they would normally spend at other local businesses.

New Businesses. New businesses will not locate in East Prairie because of the flood situation. East Prairie has an industrial park that could be developed but it floods so businesses will not locate there. Past businesses in the park have been flooded.

Interest in potential benefits to ecotourism in the project area resulting from proposed project.

New Industry / Jobs. This is similar to the “New Business” comment above. If flooding is reduced it would be easier for the area to attract new businesses which would provide more jobs for the area.

Economic / County Growth. This is also related to new businesses/jobs. A reduction in flooding would allow more growth.

### **Comments related to Agricultural:**

Interest in potential benefits to agriculture resulting from proposed project.\*\*\*\*\*

Increase corn, cotton, and rice. If flooding was reduced, the area’s farmers could grow more valuable and profitable crops like corn, cotton, and rice. Not only would this put more money in the farmer’s pockets for them to spend in the local economy, but they require more inputs to grow. These additional production costs would also be spent in the local economy and would create more jobs. Something needs to be done to prevent flooding in this area because the farmers here provide essential food and fiber to the nation.

Due to flooding, most farmers are limited to planting soybeans instead of more profitable crops like wheat, corn, rice, etc.\*\*\*

Assess agricultural/Financial Impacts. This comment notes that the frequent floods cause significant agricultural losses in the area. These losses have a large financial impact on the residents and businesses located in the area.

Impact to cropland values both in New Madrid and St. Johns – need for pumps / pump interior floodwater. This comment pointed out how the impounded rainwater affects the value of the farmland and residences in the area. The pumps would greatly enhance the property values.

High Risk Crop Insurance – Currently farmers carry crop insurance that is very expensive due to the high probability of flooding. If the risk is reduced, farmers could potentially get lower priced insurance.

Crop Rotation – Improve soil. Currently the primary crop in the most frequently flooded areas is soybeans. If flood risks are reduced, the farmers could better rotate their crops which would in turn improve soil conditions and improve crop yields.

Dairy Industry – new to area – lost grazing land. A new dairy located in the area was mentioned. Recently much of the dairy's pasture was flooded. This caused two problems. One, the cattle had limited forage which caused increased supplemental feeding. Two, flooding concentrated the cattle causing increased waste/manure problems. Further flooding could cause health problems for the cattle.

#### **Comments related to Fish and Wildlife:**

Fish passage is a concern; therefore the Corps should use the existing fish passage conditions at St. Johns (existing structure) to compare fish passage in the St. Johns Bayou Basin to the existing New Madrid Floodway (open, no structure).

Fish passage is a very small issue in the overall scheme of this project and should not have prevented the project from being implemented.\*\*\*\*\*

Interest in potential benefits to waterfowl resulting from proposed project.\*

There are concerns about the adverse impacts of flooding on terrestrial wildlife (rabbits, turkey, and deer).\*\*\*\*\*

Environmental Concerns – Demonstrate environmental benefits to environmental community. This comment was aimed toward the project opponents of the project. The commenter(s) wanted the Corps to demonstrate to the project opponents that there were many environmental benefits, especially to wildlife, that would more than offset the potential losses of the project. The benefits were both to reducing flooding and to restoring habitat through the mitigation associated with the project.\*

Project will benefit the environment. This comment is similar to the above in that the reduction in flooding will have a definite benefit to wildlife in the project area. The losses (deaths) of wildlife due to flooding would be reduced. Also wildlife would increase in the area leading to hunting benefits.\*

Interest in potential benefits to Big Oak Tree State Park resulting from proposed project.\*

Benefits to Big Oak Tree State Park – emphasize. The Corps should demonstrate how the project will benefit Big Oak Tree State Park.

Wildlife Benefits. Reduction in flooding will prevent wildlife death. It will also allow for better habitat through increased rice acreage.

Waterfowl – crops to eat. As flood risk is reduced, crops like rice could be grown which would provide more food.

Loss of Food Source for Wildlife. The primary source of food for wildlife in the area comes from crops. Flooding prevents crops from being planted. It also cuts crop yields which in turn lessens available food. Flooding also covers alternative foods for wildlife.

Loss of Terrestrial Habitat. Flooding covers available wildlife habitat and concentrates wildlife in higher areas like levees. This makes the wildlife more susceptible to predators.

Damage to Tenmile Pond Conservation Area. Flooding causes damage to the Tenmile Pond Conservation Area which is a very important resource for wildlife in the area. This is a specific example of how flooding negatively impacts the area wildlife.

Concerns with impacts to wildlife and available habitat resulting from existing flooding, especially to turkey and deer.

Environmental Benefits of rice. Rice provides food for wildlife, especially waterfowl, that migrate through the area. The waterfowl provides hunting opportunities for the area which also generates hunting related jobs for the area. More rice can be grown in the area if flooding is reduced. Rice requires a longer growing season and is much more costly to produce. Flood risk prevents farmers from growing as much rice as they would like.

#### **Comments related to Water Quality:**

Concerns with the frequency of flooded agricultural fields resulting from existing flooding (without project conditions) and how this may be contributing to hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico.

Water quality during a flood event is a concern due to the chemicals that are applied to the crops. For example, in the recent flooding (May 2010), farmers had crops in the ground and had recently applied chemicals.

Prevent Ag Chemicals from reaching Mississippi River. Floodwaters carry freshly applied agricultural chemicals and fertilizer into the Mississippi River. The farmers have to re-apply these chemicals to grow their crops. So the effect is twofold. Flooding causes farmers to use more chemicals and chemicals are washed into the Mississippi River.

**Comments related to Study Process:**

Would like to see close cooperation with other environmental agencies to ensure a successful study.

The study process for this project is taking way too long. Just do the project already.\*\*\*

The Corps needs to stay focused on the original project and stop spending time on extra studies.\*\*\*\*\*

Tax dollars are being wasted because of all the excessive amount of time spent on this project. The Corps is spending too much time in court, in studying and re-studying the project area, and in preparing the EIS without constructing the project. The project needs to be constructed, not just more studies.\*\*\*

Alternatives to offset environmental impacts. Alternatives need to be formulated that either minimize environmental impacts or that will offset these impacts for a net positive for the environment.

**Miscellaneous comments:**

Emphasis on the need for flood control in the project area.\*\*\*\*\*

Strong disagreement with judge's past ruling and the amount of money spent on construction and then restoring the site to pre-construction conditions.

Commenter felt that the Birds Point New Madrid Floodway would not work (i.e., have no effect on river levels) if it was ever used.

Feel that there is an incorrect public perception of proposed project and that some people are valuing wildlife over humans.

Feel that better land use decisions could be made if those in the project area knew the future of the project area (i.e., whether the project would occur or not).

With this project in place, what precautions will be made in case of an earthquake? For instance, if the earthquake occurs north of the project area under high water conditions, will the Floodway act as if it were operated? What are the designs of the levees currently in place and the one to be constructed across the 1,500-foot gap and are they "earthquake proof"?

It takes very little rain for this area to flood, especially within the St. Johns Bayou Basin when the structure is closed due to high Mississippi River water.

Channelization and levees on the Mississippi River have constricted water flow in the valley. How will this affect the project?

Operation of the New Madrid Floodway needs to be re-examined in light of Cairo, IL, changing from a bustling river town to its current state. When operated, the Floodway does not significantly decrease flooding downstream for any length of time commensurate with the direct impacts to flooding land within the Floodway.

Benefits to areas North of Sikeston – This commenter stated that areas north of Sikeston would also be benefitted by the pump station.

St. Johns – North Cut Ditch / North of Sikeston. Comment related to USACE vicinity maps which were brought to the meeting. USACE maps showed that these two ditches ended below Sikeston when in fact they continue north of Sikeston.

### **Written Scoping Comments**

In addition to the oral comments received at this scoping meeting, USACE also received written comments through May 28, 2010. Written comments are included in Attachment 3.

### **Future Key Steps in the Study**

Coordination and additional meetings with the interagency environmental team. The DEIS should be available to the public by spring of 2012.

### **For Additional Information and How to Contact Us:**

Project Manager:	Danny Ward Project Management Branch 167 N. Main, Room B-202 Memphis, TN 38103-1894 Phone: (901) 544-0709 Fax: (901) 544-3955 <a href="mailto:daniel.d.ward@usace.army.mil">daniel.d.ward@usace.army.mil</a>
NEPA Coordinator:	Gregg Williams Planning Branch, Environmental Section 167 N. Main, Room B-202 Memphis, TN 38103-1894 Phone: (901) 544-3852 Fax: (901) 544-3955 <a href="mailto:Gregg.W.Williams@usace.army.mil">Gregg.W.Williams@usace.army.mil</a>

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a draft environmental impact statement published in the Federal Register on April 6, 2010.

News Release for public scoping meeting, dated April 23, 2010.



[Federal Register Volume 75, Number 65 (Tuesday, April 6, 2010)]  
[Notices]  
[Pages 17393-17394]  
From the Federal Register Online via the Government Printing Office [[www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov)]  
[FR Doc No: 2010-7720]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the  
``Flood Control, Mississippi River & Tributaries, St. Johns Bayou and  
New Madrid Floodway, Missouri, First Phase'' (SJNM) Project

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a DEIS.

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SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is announcing its intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Mississippi River and Tributaries, St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, MO Project. The DEIS is being prepared to address and evaluate the environmental, economic and social impacts of alternative plans to provide flood control and develop and discuss locations and methodologies of potential compensatory mitigation. This DEIS will address previous project history, independent external peer reviews, State/Federal agency concerns and will formulate alternatives that manage flood risks in the project area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Gregg Williams, telephone (901) 544-3852, CEMVM-PB-E, 167 North Main Street B-202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894, e-mail\_Gregg.W.Williams@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The St. Johns Bayou Basin and New Madrid Floodway are located in the Bootheel region of southeast Missouri and include all or portions of the New Madrid, Scott and Mississippi Counties. The basin and floodway are adjacent to the Mississippi River, extending from the vicinity of Commerce, Missouri to New Madrid, Missouri. The basin and floodway are subject to both backwater and interior headwater flooding. Congress authorized the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project to construct the mainline Mississippi River levees. The Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway was part of the 1928 Flood Control Act. A levee closure and outlet structure at New Madrid, Missouri were authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 780-83) but not constructed. The St. Johns Bayou Basin levee closure, with drainage structure, was authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1946, and subsequently constructed. An EIS for the MR&T and Channel Improvement was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality in July 1976, which addressed the New Madrid Floodway levee closure. The St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid Floodway Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was filed with the EPA in July 1982. The current project was authorized for construction by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-662), section 401(a). The authorized project is based on the Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated January 4, 1983, which is part of the Phase I General Design Memorandum (GDM) documents prepared in response to section 101(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94-587). A Revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (RSEIS) was filed in June 2002. The Revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement 2 (RSEIS2) was prepared to clarify the record and address concerns related to the calculation of compensatory mitigation for mid-season fishery impacts, hypoxia, cost-benefit analysis, Swampbuster and the applicable discount rate in the economics analysis. The RSEIS2 was filed in March 2006.

The Corps has determined that a new EIS is required to incorporate additional scientific and engineering data; include the results of intensive independent external peer review of the previous project document, plans and studies; clarify project objectives and plans; and address points raised in the course of legal action.

1. Proposed Action: The authorized project for the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project consists of channel enlargement and improvement in the St. Johns Bayou Basin along the lower 4.5 miles of the St. Johns Bayou, beginning at New Madrid, Missouri, then continuing

8.1 miles along the Birds Point-New Madrid Setback Levee Ditch and ending with 10.8 miles along the St. James Ditch. The first item of work, consisting of selective clearing and snagging, has already been completed along a 4.3-mile reach of the Setback Levee Ditch beginning at the confluence with the St. James Ditch.

The authorized project also includes a 1,000-cubic-foot-per-second (CFS) pumping station for the St. Johns Bayou Basin area, a 1,500-CFS pumping station for the New Madrid Floodway area and a 1,500-foot-closure levee at the southern end of the New Madrid Floodway. The channel enlargement work and both pumping stations are features of the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project and the levee closure is a feature of the Mississippi River Levee Project.

2. Alternatives: Alternatives to manage flood risks in the project area will be considered. Comparisons will be made among the alternative plans, including the ``no action'' alternative.

3. Scoping Process: An intensive public involvement program has been set up to (1) solicit input from individuals and interested parties so that problems, needs and opportunities within the project area can be properly identified and addressed and (2) provide status updates to concerned organizations and the public. Significant issues being analyzed include potential project impacts (negative and positive) to fisheries, water quality, wetlands, waterfowl, shorebirds, endangered species and cultural resources.

Meetings with the local sponsor, public coordination meetings, interagency environmental meetings and public project briefings/presentations will be conducted throughout this process. This notice is being circulated to Federal, State and local environmental resource and regulatory agencies; Indian Tribes; non-governmental organizations; and the general public. This notice of intent (NOI) will serve as a request for scoping input. All interested parties are encouraged to participate in the scoping process. A public scoping meeting will be held on May 11, 2010, at 7 p.m. in the East Prairie Church of God, 322 N. Washington St., East Prairie, MO 63845. It is anticipated that the DEIS will be available for public review during spring 2012. A public meeting will be held during the review period to receive

[[Page 17394]]

comments and address questions concerning the draft report.

Thomas P. Smith,  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Commander.  
[FR Doc. 2010-7720 Filed 4-5-10; 8:45 am]  
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Memphis District

# News Release

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Release No.

PA-10-01

Contact:

Public Affairs Office

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For Release:

Immediately

Phone:

(901) 544-3005 (work)

(901) 734-5694 (cell)

## **Corps of Engineers plans public meeting on St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project**

**MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 23, 2010** – The Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public scoping meeting on the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project at 7 p.m. on May 11, 2010 at the East Prairie Church of God, 322 N. Washington St., East Prairie, MO. The purpose of the meeting is to solicit input from individuals and interested parties so the Corps can properly identify and address problems, needs and opportunities within the project area.

“The Corps will analyze both positive and negative project impacts to fisheries, water quality, wetlands, waterfowl, shorebirds, endangered species and cultural resources,” Project Manager Danny Ward said. “We want to hear from everyone who has an interest in this project.”

Ward said the Corps of Engineers will use the information gathered from the scoping meeting and other sources to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project. The DEIS will address and evaluate the environmental, economic and social impacts of alternative plans to provide flood control and develop and discuss locations and ways to mitigate any potentially negative effects of the project.

-MORE-

The authorized St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project consists of channel enlargement and improvement in the St. Johns Bayou Basin along the lower 4½ miles of the St. Johns Bayou, beginning at New Madrid, then continues 8.1 miles along the Birds Point-New Madrid Setback Levee Ditch and ends with 10.8 miles along the St. James Ditch. Also included in the authorized project are two pumping stations and a closure levee at the southern end of the New Madrid Floodway.

“The Corps of Engineers remains committed to finding solutions to the challenging problem of uncontrolled flooding and seeking opportunities to benefit areas such as Big Oak Tree State Park,” Col. Thomas Smith, the Corps’ Memphis District Commander said.

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## **ATTACHMENT 2**

Handout given to attendees at the public scoping meeting held on May 11, 2010.

Contact card given to attendees at the public scoping meeting held on May 11, 2010.

Presentations conducted at the public scoping meeting held on May 11, 2010.

# **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, First Phase  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

## **Time and Location of Meeting:**

May 11, 2010                      7:00 p.m.                      East Prairie Church of God, East Prairie, Missouri

**Preparation of Draft EIS:** The DEIS is being prepared to address and evaluate the environmental, economic and social impacts of alternative plans to provide flood control and develop and discuss locations and methodologies of potential compensatory mitigation. This DEIS will address previous project history, independent external peer reviews, state/federal agency concerns and will formulate alternatives that manage flood risks in the project area.

- A notice of intent to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in the *Federal Register* on April 6, 2010.
- The draft Environmental Impact Statement should be available spring 2012.

**Purpose of Public Scoping Process:** As a result of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was created in the Executive Office of the President. One of CEQ's responsibilities was "to formulate and recommend national policies to promote the improvement of the quality of the environment." CEQ prepared "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA." These regulations require that public scoping be initiated before an environmental impact statement is prepared. The scoping process identifies significant issues related to the proposed action and invites participation of affected federal, state, and local agencies; affected Indian tribes; and other interested organizations and individuals to determine the scope and depth of significant issues to be analyzed. The scoping process also eliminates issues that are not significant.

In addition to providing input at the meetings, individuals may provide comments concerning the proposed action by writing to USACE Memphis District, ATTN: CEMVM-PM-E (Williams), 167 North Main Street, Room B-202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894. The Memphis District should receive written comments no later than May 28, 2010.

**Purpose of the Project:** The authorized project for the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project consists of channel enlargement and improvement in the St. Johns Bayou Basin along the lower 4.5 miles of the St. Johns Bayou, beginning at New Madrid, Missouri, then continuing 8.1 miles along the Birds Point New Madrid Setback Levee Ditch and ending with 10.8 miles along the St. James Ditch. The first item of work, consisting of selective

clearing and snagging, has already been completed along a 4.3 mile reach of the Setback Levee Ditch beginning at the confluence with the St. James Ditch.

The authorized project also includes a 1,000 cubic foot per second (CFS) pumping station for the St. Johns Bayou Basin area, a 1,500 CFS pumping station for the New Madrid Floodway area and a 1,500 foot closure levee at the southern end of the New Madrid Floodway. The channel enlargement work and both pumping stations are features of the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project and the levee closure is a feature of the Mississippi River Levee Project.

**Meeting Agenda:** Welcoming Remarks  
Project Overview  
Project Sponsor  
NEPA and Scoping Process  
Breakout Sessions  
Recap Breakout Findings  
Closing Remarks

**Project Manager:** Danny Ward, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers      Phone: 901-544-0709

**NEPA Coordinator:** Gregg Williams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers      Phone: 901-544-3852

**Project Sponsor:** St. Johns Levee and Drainage District



**US Army Corps  
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Memphis District

## **St. Johns Bayou Basin & New Madrid Floodway Project Contacts**

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Gregg.W.Williams@usace.army.mil

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The purpose of this scoping process is to identify significant concerns and the scope of issues to be addressed in the proposed environmental impact statement. The Corps would like your input regarding the St. Johns Bayou Basin and New Madrid Floodway projects. Oral comments may be submitted at the public scoping meeting. Written comments may be submitted by e-mail or mailed to one of the individuals listed on this card. All comments are requested by June 1, 2010.



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## **St. Johns Bayou Basin & New Madrid Floodway Project Contacts**

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# St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway

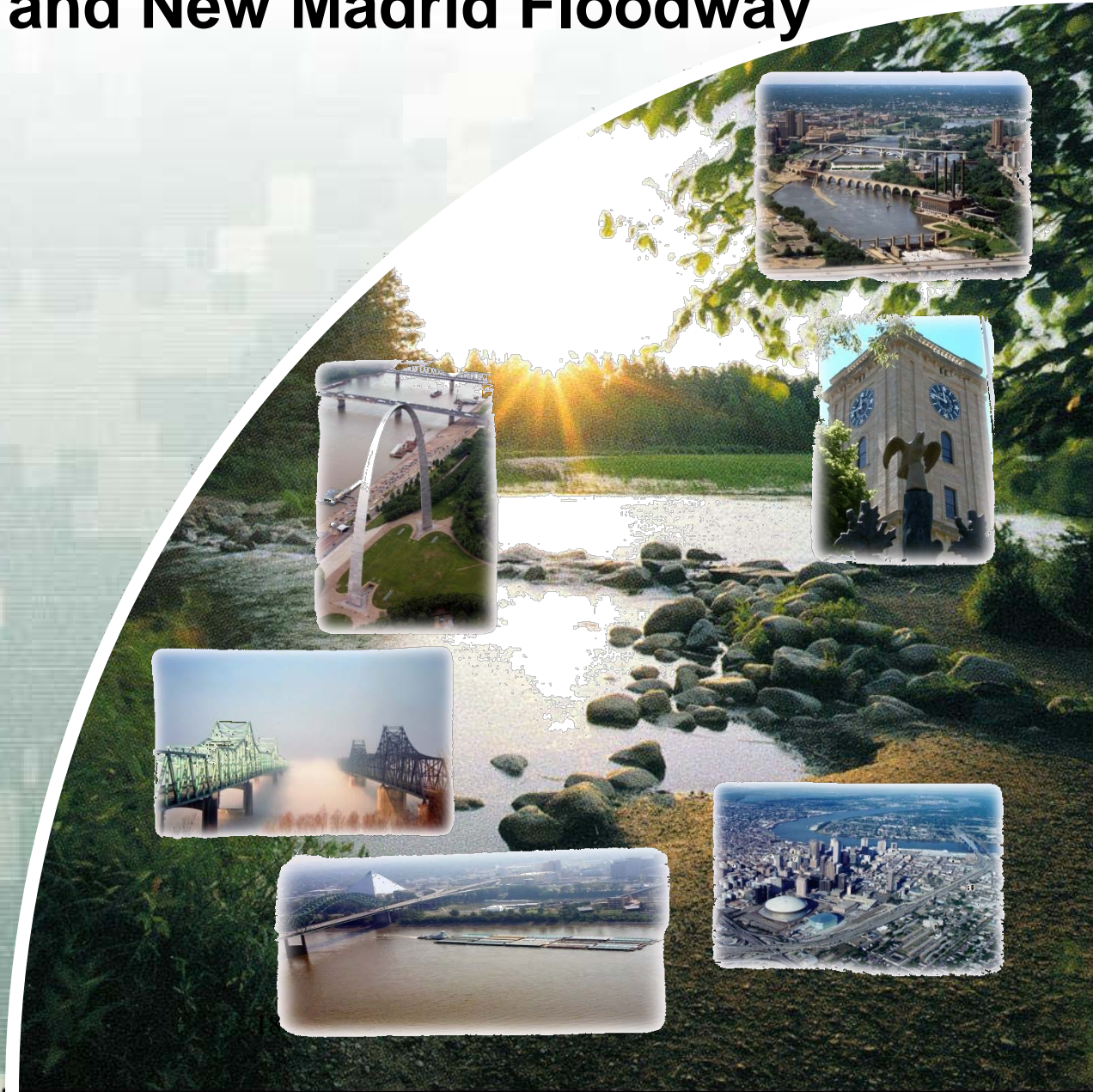
## Public Scoping Meeting

East Prairie, Missouri

11 May 2010



US Army Corps of Engineers  
**BUILDING STRONG®**



# Agenda

- Welcoming Remarks and Project Overview – Danny Ward, USACE Project Manager
- St. Johns Levee and Drainage District - Mr. Furg Hunter
- NEPA and Public Scoping – Kevin Pigott, USACE NEPA Coordinator
- Break Out Sessions – USACE facilitators
- Conclusions – USACE facilitators

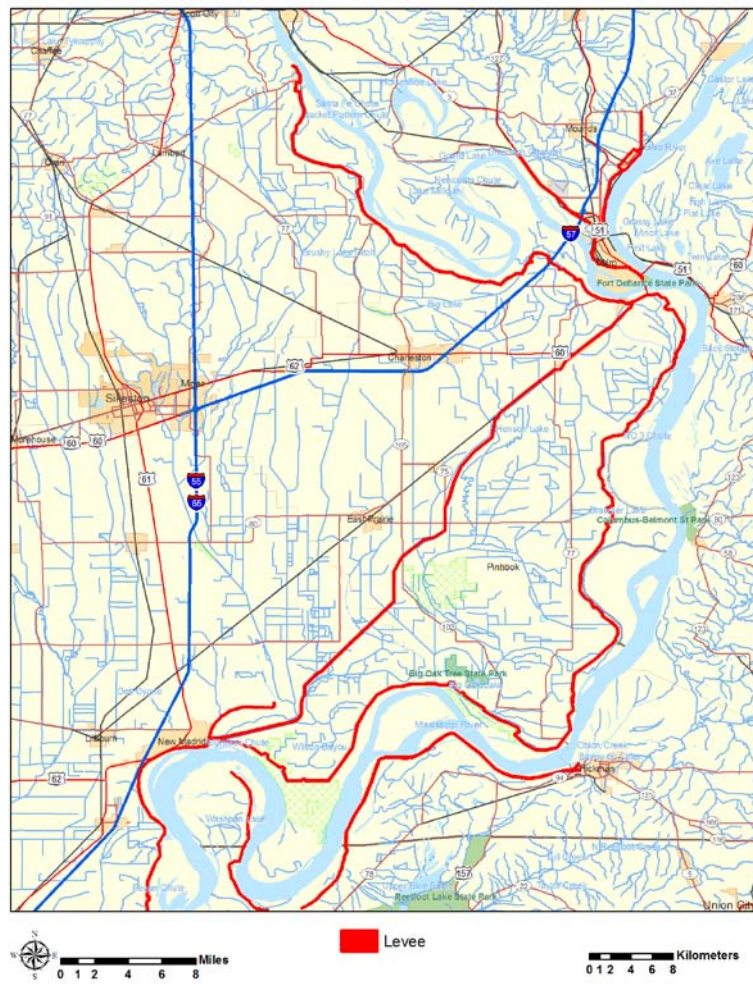


# Project Location





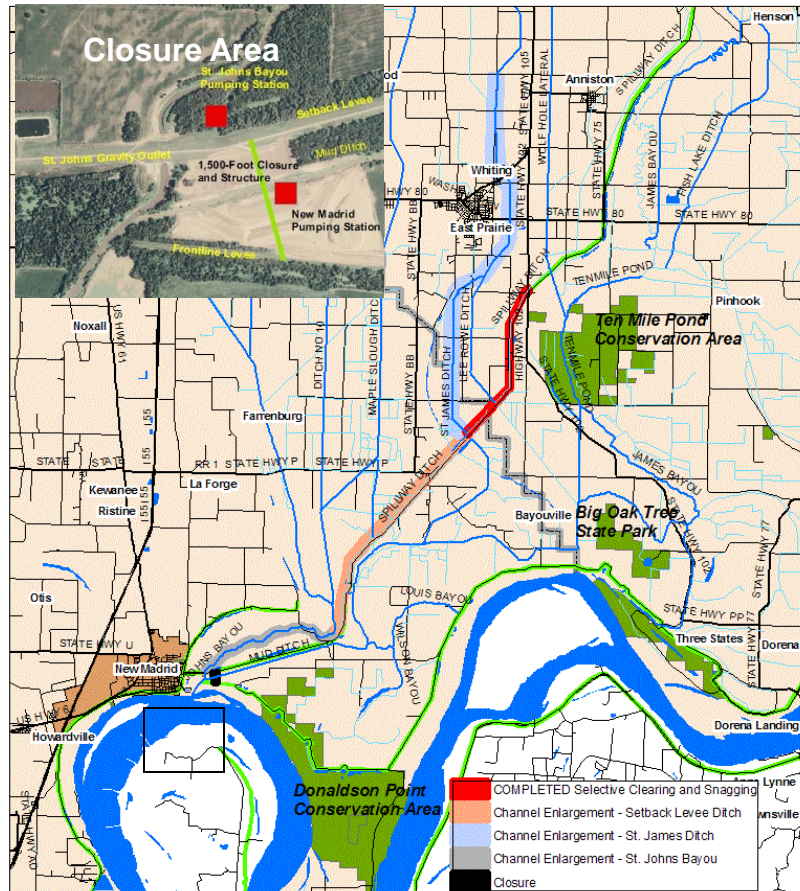
# Birds Point - New Madrid Floodway



- Authorized by the 1928 Flood Control Act.
- Purpose: To reduce upriver stages from Cairo up both the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers during a Project Design Flood by increasing the conveyance of the Mississippi River by 550,000 cfs.
- Operated when the Mississippi River gage at Cairo is 61.0 feet.
- The 1,500-foot opening provides a drainage outlet for interior runoff through Mud Ditch.
- Operated once in 1937.



# Project Authorization

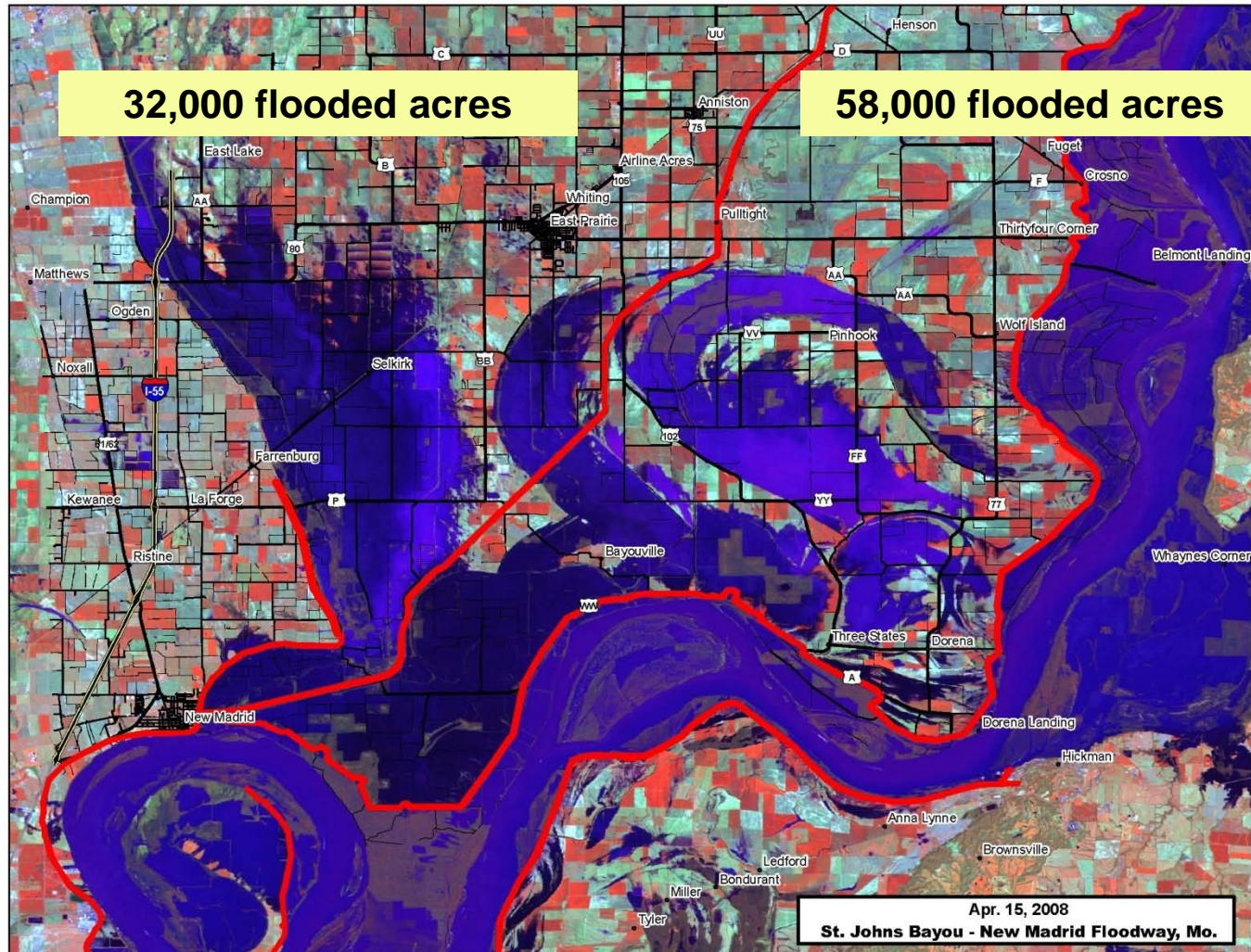


- Flood Control Act of 1954
  - ▶ Closure of the 1,500-foot gap within the Floodway.
- Water Resources Development Act of 1986
  - ▶ Pumping station in the New Madrid Floodway
  - ▶ Pumping Station in the St. Johns Bayou Basin
  - ▶ Modifications to 143.7 miles of channels within the New Madrid Floodway and the St. Johns Bayou Basin. Phase 1 only includes work on the lower St. Johns Bayou, Setback Levee Ditch, and St. James Ditch





# 2008 Flood (approximate 10-Year Event)



# Existing - Flooding

	<b>St. Johns Bayou Basin</b>	<b>New Madrid Floodway</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Event</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Acres</b>
2-yr	10,056	17,316	27,372
5-yr	30,032	35,381	65,413
10-yr	34,155	53,519	87,674
25-yr	40,073	70,108	110,181
30+-yr	55,000	75,078	130,078



# Preliminary Alternatives

- No Action Alternative
- Authorized Project
- Avoid and Minimize Measures
- Non-Structural





# Big Oak Tree State Park

- Big Oak Tree State does not receive beneficial flooding at frequencies and durations that maintain the park's unique vegetation.
- Compensatory mitigation methods that benefit Big Oak Tree State Park will be a priority.
  - ▶ Restore Mississippi River connection to the park
  - ▶ Reforest areas around the park



# Project Status

- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled against the project in 2007.
- Court decision set aside the 2002 RSEIS, 2006 RSEIS 2, and Record of Decision.
- Ordered construction terminated and required the closure site to be restored to pre-construction conditions.
- Currently restoring the site.
- Project methodology and environmental models have been independently reviewed.
- An additional Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.



# St. Johns Levee and Drainage District

Mr. Furg Hunter



# NEPA and the Public Scoping Process

**Public Scoping Meeting**

East Prairie, Missouri

11 May 2010



**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
**BUILDING STRONG®**



# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Basic national charter for environmental protection
- Provides environmental information to public
- Ultimate goal – foster good decisions



# NEPA

- Notice of Intent
  - ▶ Published in the Federal Register on 06 April 2010
- Public Scoping Meeting



# Purpose of Scoping Meeting

- Determine Scope of Significant Issues and Concerns
- Eliminate Issues that are Not Significant





# Importance of Public Scoping

- Scoping Process is Key to
  - ▶ Clarifying the significant issues to be analyzed in depth
  - ▶ Aids in preparing a concise Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)





# Scoping Considerations

- Pertinent Studies
- Significant Resources
- Issues/Concerns
- Alternative Plans



# Significant Resources/Issues

- Alternatives
- Agriculture
- Big Oak Tree State Park
- Carbon Footprint
- Cultural Resources
- Fisheries
  - ▶ Spawning Habitat
  - ▶ Rearing Habitat
- Freshwater Mussels
- Minority and Low Income Populations
- Recreation
- Shorebirds
- Terrestrial Wildlife
- Threatened/Endangered Species
- Water Quality
  - ▶ Nutrients
  - ▶ Sediments
- Waterfowl
- Wetlands



# We Want to Hear From You

- Breakout Sessions – oral comments
- Written comments may be sent to one of the individuals on the Contact Cards or given to us tonight
- All public scoping comments are requested by 28 May 2010



### **ATTACHMENT 3**

Signed petition with 105 names along with 150 signed support letters dated May 7 and May 11, 2010.

Written comments from Colonel David K. Holland, U.S. Army (retired), dated May 11, and May 23, 2010.

Written comments from Terry Redfering, dated May 12, 2010.

Written comment from Ted Medlin, President of the St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District, dated May 20, 2010.

Written comment from David R. Conrad, Senior Water Resources Specialist, National Wildlife Federation, dated May 27, 2010.

Written comment from Caroline Ishida, Staff Attorney and Elizabeth Hubertz, Counsel for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Written comment from Charles E. Kruse, President of the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation, dated May 28, 2010.

## Support for the St. Johns Bayou – New Madrid Floodway Project

**Petition of Support to:** Col. Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

The Hon. Claire McCaskill  
Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Christopher S. "Kit" Bond  
274 Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Jo Ann Emerson  
2440 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

As residents of Mississippi and New Madrid Counties, we are urging your support to complete the construction of the St. Johns-New Madrid Floodway Project. This project is vital for ensuring the well-being of the citizens of our counties, while providing critical protection from devastating floods in our region. The project will create economic development opportunities and jobs; revitalize Big Oak State Park, one of the last examples of virgin bottomland hardwood forests in Missouri, and stop the uncontrolled flooding impacting thousands of citizens in Southeast Missouri.

To our federally elected officials, we respectfully request that you communicate your support to President Obama, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Agency, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency so that the citizens of this region can be protected from flooding in an environmentally responsible manner.

### PLEASE PRINT

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Vicki Usher	201 Bill Pope Rd. EP MO 63845	revasher@sbcglobal.net
Jeff Usher	201 Bill Pope Rd. EP, MO 63845	11four20@hotmail.com
Raymond Clark	165 Hattie Lane • EP, MO 63845	649-2240
Angel Walton	314 South Washington Street EP, MO	angelshale-13@hotmail.com
Noah Walton	314 South Washington Street EP, MO	573-233-5097
Amanda Linebaugh	2445 S. 525 <sup>th</sup> Rd	573-683-0505
Linkeston Clark	1165 Hattie Ln. EP	573-649-2240
Alissa Quate	5148 E. Hwy 80, EP, MO	573-579-3629
Michelle McGrader	212 Hemlock St., EP MO 63845	573-649-9208
Matt Johnson	76 Betty Sue Dr. EP MO 63845	573-649-5466
Alma Miller	502 Montgomery	649-2051
John Walton	314 S. Washington EP.	233-5291



NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
JAMES HOAGES	143 St. Thomas N.M. MO	5748-6019
Field LaPlan +	3401 W Hwy 80	649-3101
<del>Angela</del>	312 Crawford, EP MO	
Dymisha Oroco	908 Helena Charlestown. Mo	427-8278
W.R. Lewis Jr	P.O. Box 882 Sikeston	
L. JUNE MAJORS	320 DeField E.I. MO 63845	573 6492460
Jill P. McWilliams	310 N. Lincoln E. Prairie, Mo.	573-649-3851
Caithryn Coleman	800 E. 500th Rd E. Prairie Mo	573-427-1485
Stephanie Hersaul	Same ↑	Same ↑
Lola Byars	110 Millan - EP. MO	233-4551
Walter Byars	Same	2334552
Anna Coker	530 Dixon Ave. Sikeston MO 63801	3809454
Tommy Quarte	5148 E. Hwy 80, E.P. MO	573-579-3629
Prisca Usher	201 Bill Pope Rd, EP, MO	573-649-4041
Matt Dorris	310 North St. EP, MO	573-649-3753
Beverly McDowell	310 North St. EP, MO	573-649-3753
Jeffrey Sugary	211 W. Olive St. E.P. MO	11 233-6828
Robert Mc	307 E. Commercial	573-683-5753
Saylor Woods	P.O. Box 183 EP. MO.	573-233-5258
HUBERT DELAY JR	1305 WARDE RD CHARLESTON MO 63834	573.683-6412
Tom Walburn	208 Bill Pope Rd	
	EAST PRAIRIE MO 63845	
Sandra B Morrow	1023 W 40th Rd Bertrand 63823	56morrow@midwestcom.net
NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
<del>Tina B Morrow</del>		
Robert Usher	3177 S. 413 Rd. E.P. MO	649-2081
Carol Pritchett	309 Herring St.	233-5082
Mark A Pritchett	309 Herring St.	233-5781
Cynthia Mc	309 N Center St EP MO	649-2802
Barbara Davis	210 Williams E.P. MO	649-2755
Karen Coffey	207 East Main Street	649-2000



NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Terry Dean	212 Grand St E.P.	Wgwmame@live.com
Mark Dean	212 Grand St E.P.	
Kate Callahan		
Chris Wescoat	3123 St. Hwy. 80 Matthews, MO 63027	573-703-3646
Robert Ruland	430 St Peter New Madrid	573-748-0647
Jimmy W. Briel	296 S. 527 TH RD	573-649-2865
Joe McCoy	220 S. 423rd East Prairie	683-1978
David Barnett	4970 W. Hwy C Bertrand	683-1977
Kenny Kuhl	615 E 522nd R. East Prairie	683-3007
Glen Medlin	495 St Peter, New Madrid	573-748-5388
Back Story	PO box 3 Wolf Island Mo	573-683-1623
DAKE, TRESSON	401 NTH 80 E. PRAIRIE Mo.	649-5193
Mike Sutton	800 SPANISH GRANT	649-2740
Judy Sutton	800 Spanish Grant R. East Prairie Mo	649-2740
Dever Wolford	724 Co Hwy 23 Matthews MO	380-5642
Cheryl Wolford	" "	380-5643
Timothy Johnson	14 S. Nicholson Rd East Prairie	380-9020 (work)
LD DAVIS	28 S DAVIS DRIVE	649-3829
COL David Holland	5508 Saddlewood Ln Brentwood TN	37027
R. C. Smith	140 Cedar Terrace Dr Hendersonville, TN	37025
Monica A. Hock	515 N. Main St Charleston Mo	683-6662
Terry Jones	388# Cornish, Highway 730 New Madrid	1-573-225-4532
Kandy Sutton	199 Millar Rd East Prairie Mo 63845	1-573-649-5318
NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Amy Sutton	199 Millar East Prairie Mo 63845	649-5318 asutton1992@sbcc.edu



## Support for the St. Johns Bayou – New Madrid Floodway Project

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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### PLEASE PRINT

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
<i>Thomas Kellering</i>	<i>EAST PRairie</i>	<i>647-3248</i>
<i>Kate Walters</i>	<i>EP</i>	<i>649-5134</i>
<i>Sharon Smith</i>	<i>E.P.</i>	<i>683-0449</i>
<i>Ed McWilliams</i>	<i>E.P.</i>	<i>649-3851</i>
<i>Mary Cleveland</i>	<i>110 S. Ditch EP</i>	<i>649-2097</i>
<i>Shelia Snider</i>	<i>290 State Hwy c Rolla, Mo</i>	<i>573-762-2956</i>
<i>Katie Cotsyall-Jackson</i>	<i>105 E. Falcon Ln. E.P. MO</i>	<i>573-427-8015</i>
<i>Sandra Thompson</i>	<i>E.P.</i>	<i>573-427-6194</i>
<i>Chad Taylor</i>	<i>EP</i>	<i>573-2336438</i>
<i>Colatha Marshall</i>	<i>E.P. Do not put me on a call list</i>	<i>573 649-2745</i>
<i>Ethel Lee</i>	<i>EP</i>	<i>573-649-4114</i>
<i>Felix Walton</i>	<i>East Prairie</i>	<i>573-233-5284</i>
<i>Janice Bower</i>	<i>169 S Davis Dr. EP</i>	<i>573-649-5493</i>



NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Toni Graham	20 Cedar Brook EP	649-9141
Mandy Hall	3100 W 428th Rd. EP	
Nicki Curtis	1006 DAOIS 63801	471-0957
Ross Ann Anderson	211 1st Avenue, mo.	649-8261
Darry Anderson	" "	" "
Sam Storg	825 Vernon Ave Schwan	471-4524
John Marshall		683-1334
Whitney Walton	314 S. Washington East Prairie	233-6995
Lynn Davis	304 Williams St. East	649-2932
Darwin Davis	304 Williams St. E. Prairie	649-2932
Kenny H. Page	802 E. Cypress Charles	683 4134
John Paul	649	"
Eder Brasse	185 Cedarbrook	683 0348
Sonathan Telfs	12151 Fairway Circle, Holla 65402	458-0027
Harold Bay		
Justin J.	95 Jane Ln EP MO	233-5235
Vanessa Shankle	411 Third St EP, MO	427-8168
Dottie McKenney	307 E. Commercial Charles	683-4753
Kayla Mackenz	307 E Commercial Charleston	683-4753
B. V. O. C.	PO Box 183 3130 Hwy 59	683-1827
Luke Haulk		
Joshua Walton	314 S. Washington St. EP, MO	
Ellen Ann Houston	211 E. Spur 77 EP, MO	
NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Glenn Dupont	P.O. Box 38 EP	683-233-6752
Kim Butler	317 W. Pecan E.P.	233-6047
Mark Butler	317 W. Pecan E.P. MO	233-6045
Munen Armstrong	505 North St. EP	683-0622
Eric McBruder	212 Hemlock E.P. 63845	
Darry Davis	210 Williams EP 63845	573-649-2755
Pamela S. Sullivan	Rt 1 Box 1112 A Thayer, MO 65791	417-264-2420

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Chad LePint	102 Cynthia Drive	573-649-2764
Donnie Thompson	P.O. Box 97, E. Prairie	573-683-0026
David Butler	317 W Pecan	573-649-9047
Nathan Meyers	304 N Center St	573-649-2802
Marti Jackson		
Jason Daniels	708 Mitchell, New Madrid, MO	573 225 4047
Bobby Daniels	565 CR 707, New Madrid, MO	573 748-0095
Ronnie P. Pkin	Box 88 Kewanee <sup>63860</sup>	448-5832
NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

5/7/10

Dear Col. Williams:

As a resident of Southeast Missouri, I am asking you to do everything within the Corps' power to ensure the completion of the St. Johns Bayou-New Madrid Floodway Project. For too long, this project has been promised to the citizens of Southeast Missouri so that we can stop the uncontrolled and devastating flooding that has impacted our region since the time it was settled. This vital project will significantly increase economic development in Southeast Missouri improving job opportunities and improve the livelihoods for many of our citizens.

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Thanks to the good work of the Corps of Engineers, working with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and several federal agencies has reconfigured the project in a manner that significantly enhances and protects the environment. The project will save and improve Big Oak State Park – home to one of the last remaining examples bottomland hardwood forest and wetlands – by managing water levels into the park, mimicking the natural water flow vital to the park's survival. It will enhance the areas wetlands for waterfowl and protect ground-dwelling animals that suffer from flood waters.

As one of the most economically disadvantaged region's in Missouri and the nation, we have suffered for far too long. We deserve the protection from flooding that other parts of the country enjoy. This project enjoys broad support from citizens, business, local governments and many others throughout Southeast Missouri. It will prevent flood waters from reaching our homes, our farms, and our businesses, and do this in a way that respects our natural environment. Our livelihoods and improved quality of life depends the completion of this project.

Sincerely,

Walter Byars

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

Colonel Gregg Williams  
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Sincerely,

Caitlyn Coleman

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Lee E. McWilliams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "M".

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam Stary".

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

5/7/10

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

5/7/10

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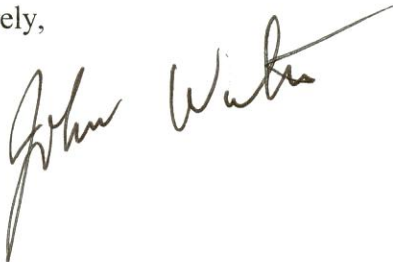
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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Williams', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



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CEMVM-PB-E  
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Sincerely,

*Michelle L. McGuder*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andy M. B. Waite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "W" at the end.

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
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167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely,

Noah Walton

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The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely,

*Angel Walton*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely,

Raymond R. Clark

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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5/7/16

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The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

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Sincerely,

*Vicki Usher*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



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CEMVM-PB-E  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Larry Sullivan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill –  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



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The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Montana Brown

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Christa  
Brith

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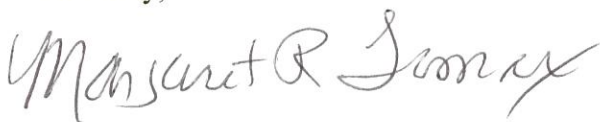
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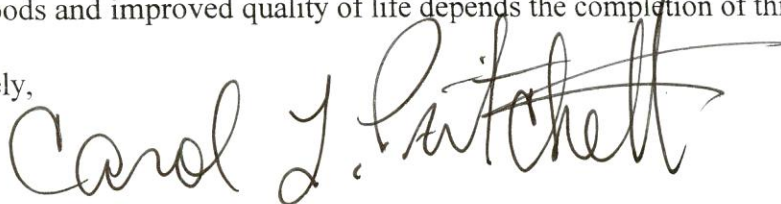
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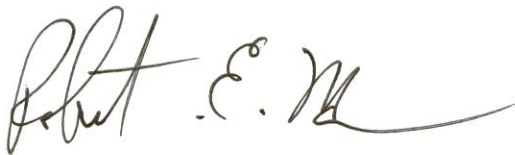
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The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

5/7/10

Dear Col. Williams:

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*Matt Dornis*

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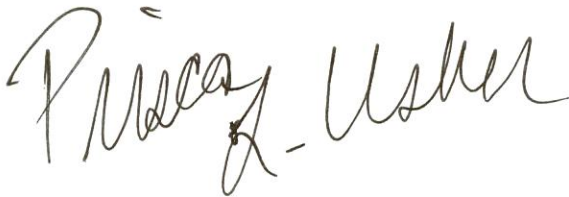
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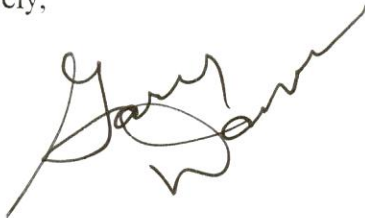
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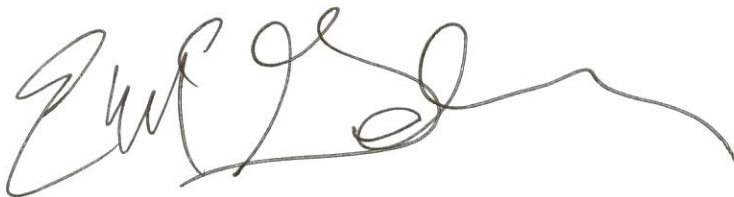
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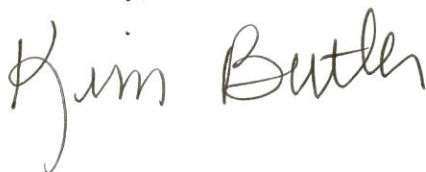
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The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Joshua Waxon

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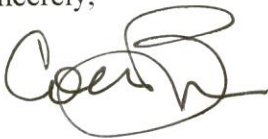
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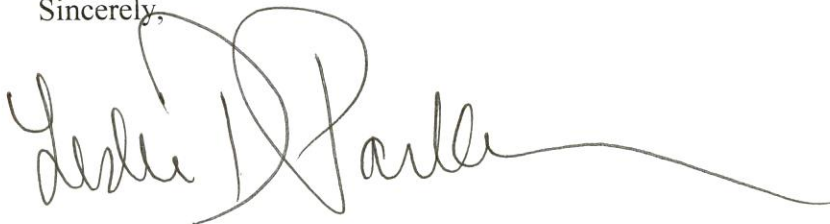
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---

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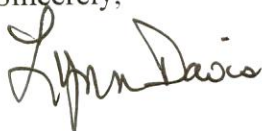
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cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson



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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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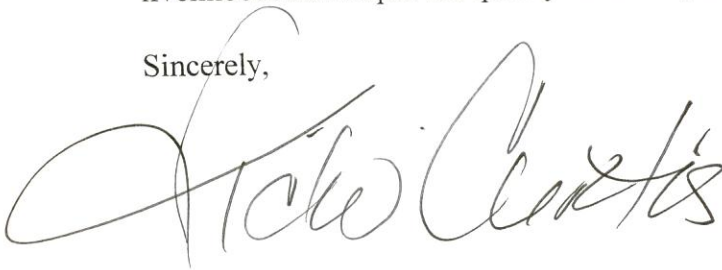
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*THOMAS SNOTHERMAN*

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5-7/16

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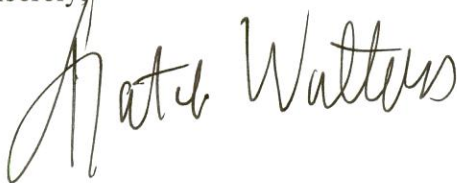
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Sincerely,

*Thelma Redfering*

---

cc: ~~The Honorable Claire McCaskill~~  
The Honorable Christopher "Kit" Bond  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

5/7/10

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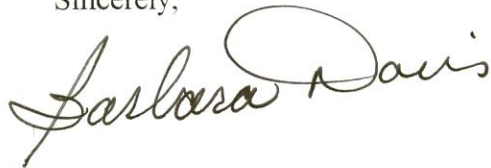
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Memphis, TN 38103

5-710

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cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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717 Hart Office Building  
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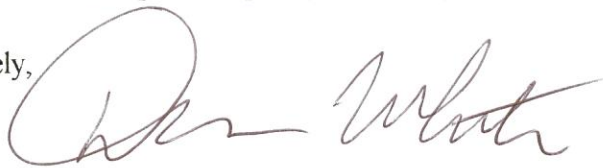
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*GENE L. HALL*  
*Gene L. Hall*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

5-11-10

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*David B. Bunt*  
4970 W Hwy C  
Berthoud, CO 80513

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



5/11/10

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Col. Williams:


As a resident of Southeast Missouri, I am asking you to do everything within the Corps' power to ensure the completion of the St. Johns Bayou-New Madrid Floodway Project. For too long, this project has been promised to the citizens of Southeast Missouri so that we can stop the uncontrolled and devastating flooding that has impacted our region since the time it was settled. This vital project will significantly increase economic development in Southeast Missouri improving job opportunities and improve the livelihoods for many of our citizens.

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Sincerely,

  
401. W. Hwy 80  
SPRAIRIE MO.  
cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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Sincerely,

  
35 ADELIA DR  
EAST PRARIE, MO 63845

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

5-11-60

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Col. Williams:

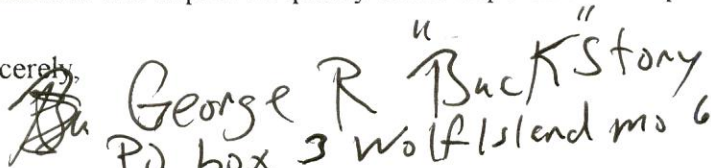
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Sincerely,

  
George R. Backstrom  
PO box 3 Wolf Island mo 63881

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



May 11, 2010

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

495 St Peter  
New Madrid, MO 63869  
(573) 748-5388



5-11-10

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,

*Rick Ling*  
787 St Hwy U  
New Madrid, Mo 63869

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

*Richard Sutton*  
800 SPANISH  
GRANT Rd.  
EAST PRAIRIE  
MO

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Sincerely,



Judy Sutton  
800 Spanish Grant Rd. East Prairie, MO

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



5-11-2010

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
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cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

John Sutton  
708 W. WASHINGTON  
EAST PRairie, MO

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Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

3299 West 520th Ave  
East Prairie MO  
63845



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,

Wade Wallace 3299 W. 520<sup>th</sup> Rd.  
East Prairie, Mo.  
63845

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
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cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

724 Co Hwy 623  
Matthews, Mo. 63867

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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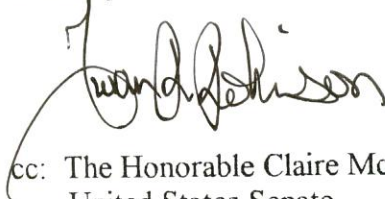
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Sincerely,



H. S. Nicholson Rd  
East Prairie, MO 63845

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United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

LD DAVIS  
283, DAVIS  
EAST PRAIRIE MO  
6384

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Sincerely,



831 Scott St  
NEW MADRID MO 63869

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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CONN DAVIS  
28 S. DAVIS  
EAST PRIDMORE MO

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Conn Davis

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



JDH  
POB 200  
N.M. - Mo.  
63869

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Sincerely,

*John A. Brewer*  
900 County Hwy 524  
Sikeston, MO. 63801

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Col. Williams:

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Sincerely,

*Sara Stouy*  
39 West 408<sup>th</sup> Road  
Charleston, MO 63834

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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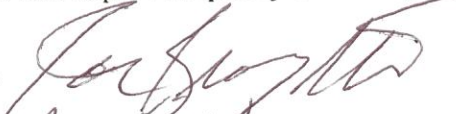
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Sincerely,

  
Joe Braggs  
735 Mitchell  
New Madrid, Mo. 63815  
cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely,



Douglas Moore  
761 State Hwy FF  
Sikeston, MO 63701

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

5-11-10

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,

*Bobby + Julie Aycock*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

*Bobby + Julie Aycock  
840 Mitchell St  
New Madrid, Mo 63869  
cell # 572 748-5170*



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,

*Tony Jones*  
*County High. 730-3887*

*New Madrid Mo. 63869*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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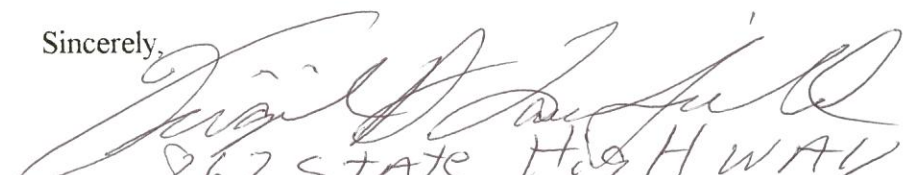
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Sincerely,

  
867 STATE HIGHWAY BB  
EAST PRAIRIE MO.  
63845

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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Sincerely,

*Pete Flory*  
 *Hwy 77 South*  
 *Wallisland Mo 63881*  
cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



5-11-10

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
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167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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Sincerely, *Donald P. Pyle*  
1310 Davis St New Madrid  
63869

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



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Jason Daniel  
708 Mitchell  
New Madrid, MO 63869

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

5-11-10

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely, *Ronnie Pipkin*  
*Box 88 Kewanee MO*  
*63860*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



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Sincerely,

*Brantley Atchley*  
170 Saint Monica Lane  
New Madrid MO 63869  
cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



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Sincerely,

Chris Wescoat  
3123 St. Hwy. 80  
Matthews, MO 63867

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Sincerely,

*John R. [Signature]*  
431 Saint Peter  
New Madrid, mo 63869

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely,

  
19 Betty Sue Dr.  
East Prairie MO 63845

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



5-11-10

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Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Jerry Britt  
2965527 RD  
FIRST PRAIRIE

5-11-10

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
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Sincerely,

 Robert Riley, Jr.  
430 St Peter  
New Madrid, Mo 63869

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,

*Claude D. Thomule*  
*491 E. 522nd Rd*  
*EAST PRAIRIE MO 63845*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

5-11-10

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Sincerely,

J. W. Rice Jr.  
77 County Highway 727  
New Madrid, MO. 63869

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Sincerely,

*Artha Robinson*  
3949 E Hwy 44  
East Prairie, Mo. 63845

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

1893 El Rio Dr.  
Cape Girardeau, MO  
63701



Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,



133 S. N. Chilson Rd.  
East Prairie, Mo.  
63845

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Randy Sutton 5/11/10  


199 Millar Rd.  
East Prairie Mo.



3/11/2010

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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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Sincerely,



515 N. Main St  
Charleston, MO 63834

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



5-11-10

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Sincerely,

*Amy Suth*  
199 Miller Rd  
East Prairie, MO 63845

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

5-11-10

Colonel Gregg Williams  
CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103

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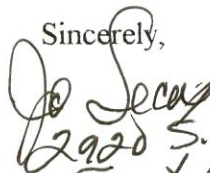
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Sincerely,

  
2920 S. 423  
East Prairie, Mo

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



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CEMVM-PB-E  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
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Sincerely, *Larry Allied*

*6800 Hwy 740*

*EAST Prairie MO 63845*

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



ADDENDUM (23 MAY 2010) TO MY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED EIS BY MEMPHIS DISTRICT,  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE), 11 MAY 2010

By: Colonel David K. Holland, U.S. Army (retired)

The so-called public meeting was a disappointment to me and several others. We were not allowed to make public statements during the proceedings; although I was told at the entry desk that those of us attending could do so. I was able to give a copy of my written comments to one of the ladies at the entry desk, but not to speak to the public meeting. Instead we were set up in a 'divide and conquer' arrangement where we were placed in three groups and allowed to make one comment at a time. No questions, no comprehensive delivery of comments; just a sort of kindergarten deal where the kiddies (or yokels) were to make one statement and then it was on to the next person.

Despite this odd circumstance; there were some telling remarks made. I was particularly impressed by comments of Ms. Robinson, daughter of the late Mr. Jim Robinson of the Pinhook community. Since I didn't observe anyone taking notes, no stenographer, no recording devices, just a few words on an easel pad; I will paraphrase her most telling remark, "Why is it that fish and other creatures take precedence over humans? Are we considered less than animals?" She also spoke about the hardships of children having to be pulled through the backwaters in a farm trailer so that they could get to the levee and thence into a school bus. That has been a bone of contention through all the public meetings that I have attended.

You all seemed to be making the presentation because it was just a matter of form. You came to East Prairie with a large contingent, but without much élan. I, for one, felt that we were being talked down to, and we were being revisited with the same old smoke and mirrors. It was, essentially, a rehashing all the old situations that have failed and you all seemed content and determined to follow the pattern that has failed and will continue to fail. The 'environmentalist' coalition is much too strong and they have the system in their favor. You need to face up to the fact that the closure will never occur under the current conditions.

I was particularly upset at pandering to the 'greens' by advocating expanding Big Oak Tree State Park by a factor of three or four. They can't take care of what they have now. Will the 'plan' support taking thousands of acres of productive farm land and put it into a failing park system? Where will the money come from to support an expanded park? What will happen to those of us who are stewards of the land carrying on a long tradition of those who have lived on, owned, and/or actively farmed the land? Will folks be forced off the land; because of a scheme to circumvent the misguided efforts of those who call themselves 'environmentalists'? Farmers are the original 'environmentalists'. One does not deliberately damage the basis of their

livelihood. How will any compensation be adjudicated? How might people be compensated if they are forced off the land? Using whose standard?

The last iteration of this tilting at windmills included a plan to acquire almost 10,000 acres of mitigation lands to satisfy the demanding 'greens'. That didn't satisfy them, and nothing will satisfy them until the project is put to rest and the efforts to close the levee are stopped. Well, they might not worry about the study groups, and that is the sum totals of the efforts to date, study, study, study.

I come from a generation that saw the Corps of Engineers as a vital force in our area. Slab yards, sinking plants, revetment repair parties, levee section, dredging section, construction division, and other activities. The Corps was a positive and active part of our lives. Thousands of people from Hickman, Osceola, Parkin, Covington, Henning, Atoka, Munford, Brighton, and a host of other small towns worked for the Memphis District in its heyday. Now, the old Memphis office is gone, the boats, barges, plants, and people are gone from the old West Memphis site, and you are in a high-rise building in Memphis no longer directly associated on the river. You have gone from extensive field activities to being a design and study group, and vitality has gone with it.

I feel that the Corps and local entities need to take a serious look at the odds of getting the project approved and built. That might be a sobering view, and I would hope that an alternative project could be more feasible and acceptable. I speak of putting drainage tubes under the levee at the place where James Bayou is blocked in the Dorena area. If a set of tubes, such as those close to New Madrid, were to be installed at that point it would be a win-win situation. It would allow the water that accumulates in the Dorena area to exit in a normal fashion when the river is lower. It would allow free passage of spawning fish as needed, and it would possibly allow a connection to the river for the park. Simple gates will allow that sort of operation. Not a grand project keeping hundreds of people 'studying', but one that can be easily accomplished, within good cost/benefit standards, and a much more efficient way of managing the waters that periodically inundate us in that area.

When the Frontline Levee was constructed; the mouth of James Bayou was interrupted, and its waters have been forced to run backward or upstream toward Black Bayou and the Ten Mile Pond area. It then has to go into Wilkerson Ditch that now carries a double load of water due to this inefficient operation. Water is supposed to flow downstream, and it is wrong for James Bayou to be used thusly. Black Bayou is not a relief either, as it cannot drain until the water level in Wilkerson Ditch has dropped sufficiently to allow Black Bayou to outflow.

It would be a nice project, and one that can be accomplished in a few months in Summer and into the Fall. It would then be ready for the next flooding from the river and from rainwater and

seepwater. It would allow the entire affected area to drain more quickly; thus enhancing the economic aspect of managing the Floodway. It can be done.

I know that you 'need' for James Bayou to run in such an adverse manner in order to 'justify' the grand plan. We, who are closely associated with the land in the Dorena area, would be much more happy with the simple solution to drainage; such as the one that currently exists near New Madrid and is associated with the St. John's Bayou. I know the above mentioned plan can be accomplished quickly as I was a surveyor/inspector on the St. John's project in 1950 and saw it built.

We need for our local representatives on the St. John's Levee and Drainage District to take a new look at the disgraceful plan that suggests expanding Big Oak Tree State Park as a sop to the opposition. The opposition is akin to the welfare state. You can never satisfy their grasping for more and more. If close to ten thousand acres of mitigation, as proposed in the previous plan, did not satisfy them; then you can bet that adding a couple of thousand acres to a park will not get the job done.

In a State that is struggling with its budget, in a Country that is heavily in debt, and in the need of good agricultural land to remain in production to feed and support an expanding population, adding to the park is not a good plan. Of course, if one is far removed from the threat of losing land that has been in the family for generations, or where agricultural enterprises are producing needed food and fiber, it is easy to propose that others should lose their land and livelihood. The last iteration of this pipedream showed that the Corps cannot provide adequate compensation for the land, but must adhere to assessments by tax authorities and other data, even if there were an interest in selling the land. I appreciate the real estate division's dilemma and know that they must be careful with government monies. I don't believe there is any sort of stimulus package to cover this sort of boondoggle. It is a potential waste.

We are not interested in selling land, we deplore the proposal to expand a mostly defunct park, and we stoutly adhere to the proposal to restore James Bayou to its historic flow.

Respectfully submitted

David K. Holland

COL, USA (ret)



COMMENTS ON PROPOSED EIS BY MEMPHIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE), 11 MAY 2010 [amended with a few edits for correctness and clarification]

By: Colonel David K. Holland, U.S. Army (retired)

Friends and neighbors of Mississippi County, Missouri; especially those with homes or interests in the Floodway (former Spillway) area; Commander of the Memphis District, Corps of Engineers [alas, he didn't attend. It was said that he was ill.], and other distinguished visitors at this gathering. I thank the Memphis District Commander for allowing me to present my thoughts [no one was not allowed to speak to the full group of attendees] on the renewed attempt to produce a viable Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the closing of the gap in the levee at the lower end of the Floodway. I applaud that effort. It is a long held dream that someday there would be success and the gap would be closed with controlled inflow allowed, but with a limit, plus a pumping station or stations to regulate excess flooding from occurring.

I am a land owner and manager of land in the Dorena area of Mississippi County. For many years during my long active duty U. S. Army career I called Dorena my home of record, and I have a great affection for that area and its people, many of whom are long gone. I have been associated closely with the Dorena area for over sixty years. A part of that time I was an employee of the Memphis District, between school terms, beginning when I was sixteen years of age working in the Hickman slab yard as a common laborer. In various other capacities I worked for the Corps for parts of six years.

Major General Jadwin gave us both a blessing and a curse. It has been a mystery to me how having the Floodway located below Cairo would 'save' Cairo. It appears to me that a devastating crest from the Ohio River, as reinforced by the Mississippi/Missouri drainage, would most likely overtop Cairo's floodwall or levee before reaching Bird's Point. Of course, with half of Mississippi County subject to being sacrificed to 'save' Cairo the hypothetical crest would likely pass Cairo sooner. Major General Jadwin's Plan must have been greatly influenced by his sojourn in Cairo in 1927. I wonder if those same inducements, whatever they were, would still be operative today.

The need for a huge gap in the levee at the lower end of the Spillway is also questionable. Was it to make sure that the river would have a new course to follow? We can never be sure.

Part of the EIS is supposed to regard economics. We have seen that the result of the big gap in the levee system near New Madrid has driven out residents, has driven out businesses, has negatively and seriously affected the tax base of the Floodway area, and continues to keep the area economically depressed. All of that has occurred because no one can accurately predict what the Lower Mississippi River might do. In the many years that I have been associated with

the river and with farm land in the Dorena area I have seen the constant erosion of businesses, residents, degraded infrastructure, loss of schools, and limited opportunities for entrepreneurs. Sadly, a once thriving community is now reduced to only a handful of local workers, closed cotton gins, only one local grain elevator (thus a limitation to marketing for lack of competition). There are no more grocery stores, no post office, no schools, roads that in some cases are reverting to pot-holed, gravelled surfaces, all because of the danger of flooding and the lack of voters in that depressed end of the County.

The one active business of which I am aware is the Choate Farms sweet corn operation. That is a fine operation that usually employs a goodly number of folks during an extended season, and it has far-reaching effects due to the spin off aspects for ice, transport, marketing, etc. Just think of the many people who are benefitted by this landmark operation, the result of Mr. Wendell Choate's, and his family's vision and dedication to the production of a significant crop for our area. A year or so ago they were not able to operate because the gap in the levee allowed too large and too long a flood that prevented planting. The economic result was that hundreds of folks were not hired, seed corn was not purchased, truckers were not engaged to haul the usually bountiful crop to all areas of our Nation, and local businesses were denied the pass through of the wages, products purchased, fuel purchased, and a myriad of other aspects.

Millions of Federal and local dollars plus untold hours of planning have been spent in the attempt of get the levee closure completed, but to no avail. Quite a few years ago the Congress appropriated the necessary funds to do the job, but somehow there were delays and foot dragging, and it never got done. I am told that those funds are still available [perhaps 'authorized' but not actually appropriated], but without a viable plan it is just part of a pipe dream. During the intervening years we have been assailed by an army of adversaries who have been very successful in foiling any attempt to get the closure effected. It is a sad commentary on our present situation that foreign interests, incorrect reporting, and vast resources in media and other parties have denied the alleviation of local problems that have persisted since shortly after the 1927 Flood. I recall that one of the previous EIS attempts garnered a negative comment from Guam, and there was a cacophony of negativism from powerful media outlets such as the Saint Louis Post Dispatch and the Washington (D.C.) Post newspapers.

Seemingly the Corps does not have any clout with media so that the truth can be heard. Mrs. Liz Anderson, (oh! How we miss her) was a steady and valiant voice for truth regarding the whole mess that evolved, but one small newspaper editor, despite being honest and forthright, could not trump the distant organs of misinformation. Even after local persons persuaded the hecklers from the St. Louis and Washington newspapers to come visit, and they were shown that none of the hysteria was appropriate, the adversaries returned to their distant cities and continued to rail that huge amounts of 'pristine wetlands' would be devastated by the proposed project. That project would have controlled the flooding in an acceptable and reasonable manner, but the screamers and schemers prevailed. No closure.

I tried this before, but I would like to call attention to the effect that uncontrolled flooding has on wildlife. It is strange that the opponents of the closure seem to admire wildlife, but when it is pointed out that the uncontrolled flooding actually is harmful to all the wildlife of the Floodway, it falls on deaf ears. They need to be shown the drowned deer, the depleted small game, and the animals that cluster on the levees to avoid drowning only to become fair game to coyotes, wild dogs, and poachers. Let them see a doe with a tiny fawn trying to swim long distances to reach some higher ground only to have the fawn die from exhaustion. How can they allow such a thing to occur? Is not wildlife important to them as it is to the rest of us? Have they no feelings of remorse at the sad events? They seem to be blind to all but their intent to block a very necessary project. Wildlife has an economic impact too.

I encourage the COE to get their legal departments fired up and on the side of getting the levee closed. I was told that in the most recent debacle that played out in a Washington, D.C. Courtroom the government lawyers essentially deferred to the opposing attorneys. That, plus having a judge who did not seem to favor the COE case resulted in putting the project out of action. I am not sure what the situation is regarding that fiasco, but it shows that we must have strong representation in order to defeat the naysayers and to get the project approved. It is sad that a case regarding a project vital to South East Missouri could not be heard closer to this area instead of Washington, D. C.

Unfortunately, I don't think that the big project can ever be completed in the current atmosphere of so-called environmental activists. It is easier to defeat any building project than it is to get one approved. We see in the media, almost daily, where proposed projects have to waste time and resources to appease people and groups who are basically disposed to say a resounding NO to any proposal. If we cannot find a way to surmount that sort of obstacle we need to pull in our horns and find some other way to help the critical situation in the Floodway.

In that regard I would like to propose a much less grand project, but one that might just be feasible. Given that continuing to study and propose and to make EIS and to lose again and again on the closure project; it would be less desirable, but probably more likely to be approved if the COE would come up with a simple project to reopen the flow of James Bayou by putting some drains through the levee where that noble stream used to run toward and into the Mississippi River. I know that sort of project would give us better relief. Just out of college I was employed by the Memphis District in the New Madrid Field Office where a nice construction project was underway. I worked as a surveyor and as an inspector on the St. John's Bayou Drainage Project where several large concrete tubes were put through the levee. Those can be closed off during a river flood in order to prevent areas around Sikeston, Matthews, and East Prairie from a devastating flood. The tubes allow the accumulated headwaters to be drained by gravity flow once the river starts to recede.

One needs to observe the topography of the area in the south end of Mississippi County. Currently, with James Bayou being denied its historic flow pattern, all the rainwater and seepwater from the Dorena area and above, must flow BACKWARD in order to add to the flow of what is in part, Wilkerson Ditch. That puts an inordinate load on Wilkerson and Mud Ditches, having to carry a double load of water. It would be far more efficient to have the water on the



east side of the divide to run out James Bayou as it once did, and to then let Wilkerson and Mud Ditches carry the excess from the west side.

The drainage structure for James Bayou would be a boon to the area, and a simple solution that would help us immensely and immediately. It will be an easy project to design and to install. Low cost, simple operation, and vitally needed. Please don't reject this plea out of hand. It is doable, and the grand plan is not viable.

Thank you for allowing me to speak. [Only, I was not allowed to make a public statement. I hope that the East Prairie Eagle will accept this as an article important to the people and economics of Mississippi County, Missouri, and will print it.]

Terry Redfering  
35 Alesia Drive  
East Prairie, Mo 63845

May 12, 2010

Re: St. Johns Bayou Basin & New Madrid Floodway Project

To Whom It May Concern

I am a lifelong resident of New Madrid and Mississippi Counties. My wife and I are business owners and very concerned about our community. I served 2 years as President of the Chamber of Commerce and am presently President of the East Prairie Community Development Corporation I consider myself to be a common sense environmentalist; I believe it is a moral obligation and should be a legal obligation to leave this land in as good, if not better condition than before. I whole heartily support this project, because it will enrich the quality of life for the residents and enhance the environment.

It is recorded in the EIS what the project will do for the environment, wild life, Big Oak Tree State Park, and other issues. All these items are very important and will improve this area greatly. But it is the health and quality of life for the citizens of the area, I wish to focus on. I live in East Prairie and commute 29 miles to work, traveling Hwy 80 to I-55. When the flood gates are closed due to the Mississippi River being at or above flood stage and significant rains here or above us creates flooding, because there is no drainage. This will cause Hwy 80 to close due to water over the road; this highway is a main route in and out of East Prairie and forces the usage of alternative routes that are longer and are not well maintained. (I have seen Hwy 80 closed for 56 days). My wife and I own Main Street Pharmacy; we deliver medicine to the Matthews Nursing Home. Normally, this delivery would be about 12 miles, but when Hwy 80 is closed it becomes 40 miles. The flooding affects hundreds of citizens of this community entering and exiting East Prairie daily.

A very serious concern is the school students of East Prairie and New Madrid. This being a rural area several of our students ride a bus to school and buses will not (and rightfully so) drive over flooded roads, literally causing some of these students to miss days and weeks of school.

I have witnessed the flooding so severe in East Prairie that the sewer system failed and raw sewerage floated down the streets. Rural citizen's septic systems will not function properly and create health issues. There is no excuse for problems such as these to continue any longer. We have a good plan and the resources to correct these unacceptable conditions from reoccurring and effecting our health and livelihoods. This is the United States of America the greatest country in the world. I been told its citizens enjoy the highest quality of life than any other country (**except the citizens living in this area**). Citizens all long the rivers in the United States have flood protection excluding us. **WHY???? can't we?**

Thank You for listening  
Sincerely Yours  
Water logged too long



# St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District

**Established 1958**

**Board of Supervisors/Officers**

Ted Medlin, President  
John H. Edwards, Jr., Vice President  
R. Scott Matthews  
Robert A. Riley, Jr.  
Louis Wilburn  
Martin Lucas, Engineer

H. Riley Bock  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Attorney  
450 Main St.  
New Madrid, MO 63869  
Fax: (573) 748-9274  
Phone: (573) 748-9275

May 20, 2010

Mr. Danny Ward  
Project Management Branch  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Re: St. Johns Bayou Basin & New Madrid Floodway Project

Dear Mr. Ward:

I am Ted Medlin, President of the Board of Supervisors of St. John's Bayou Basin Drainage District of New Madrid County, Missouri. The St. John's Bayou Basin is one of two areas which will be directly impacted by the St. John's Bayou/New Madrid Floodway Project. Our district consists of over 350 individual landowners who rely on the surface drainage provided by our district. In addition, lands in Scott County, Missouri, and areas of its principal metropolis, Sikeston, drain into our basin. The basin, as you are aware, shaped like a funnel, passes its waters through the levee near New Madrid, Missouri.

For decades, waters impounded by the main line levee have flooded many of the areas of our district, dislocating residents, destroying personal property, flooding homes, interrupting transportation, damaging crops and farmlands, and spreading disease and pestilence. These conditions have worsened over the past 25 years as more frequent and higher floods on the Mississippi River have forced the closing of the only outlet for our waters, the gravity flow gates near New Madrid. This condition is now greatly exacerbated by the recent reclamation, clearing and rehabilitation of the entire drainage district through programs initiated by the NRCS.

I have testified in favor of this public project on many occasions on behalf of our landowners, the board of supervisors, and the residents of our district; I appear once again, before your agency, to plead our case to proceed with the installation of pumps in the St. John's Bayou Basin at the New Madrid gates, a project that is achievable and without environmental objection. The flood protection that will be accorded the people of our district by this project will protect those already there and enable better and more productive use of the resources situated in the district.



Mr. Danny Ward  
May 20, 2010  
Page 2.

Although we believe that the benefits of the project fully justify any impact directly caused by the project itself, the inclusion of more than 8,000 acres of land for mitigation is more than sufficient. In fact, the mitigation is of such proportion that it eclipses the current fish and wildlife habitat of both the St. John's Basin and the New Madrid Floodway. Those acres combined with controlled annual water impoundment, the removal of certain areas from the risk of flood, and the agricultural diversification which is sure to occur, will create an environment and wildlife habitat that the people of our basin have not seen since the 1870s.

The 75 square mile area that is the St. John's District (consisting of approximately 350,000 acres) once teemed with people and their communities, schools and country stores. Its roads were passable year around and its residents could rely in large part on the bounty of the land they farmed and hunted to subsist. The river and its floods have taken most of what once was; the river and its floods work incessantly to take what still survives; and without this project the river and floods will eventually destroy all of our basin.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

  
Ted Medlin, President



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®  
901 E St. NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
202-797-6800  
www.nwf.org

May 27, 2010

Mr. Gregg Williams, CEMVM-PB-E  
Memphis District Corps of Engineers  
167 North Main Street B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Transmitted via email to Gregg.W.Williams@usace.army.mil

Re: Scoping Comments for: *The Federal Register, Volume 75 Issue 65 (Tuesday, April 6, 2010), Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the ``Flood Control, Mississippi River & Tributaries, St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, Missouri, First Phase'' (SJNM) Project*

Dear Mr. Williams:

The National Wildlife Federation submits these comments in response to the Corps recent scoping notice on the above reference project. NWF was a party in the lawsuit (EDF v. US Army Corps of Engineers, No. 04- 1575, at 14 (D.D.C. Sep. 13, 2007), and as such, should be considered an interested party, and we were surprised not to have been notified directly by the Corps of this proceeding. We also note that the Federal Register Notice did not include a due date for scoping comments nor did it provide a clear location for public comments to be sent. We are requesting by a separate letter that the Corps reissue the Federal Register notice to include this required and necessary information and give interested parties sufficient time to provide comments.

We are extremely disappointed to learn that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to reopen the St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid Floodway project. This project on its face is designed to drain more than 80,000 acres of regularly flooded, highly valuable Mississippi River basin floodplain habitat, including more than 30,000 acres of wetlands, for which more than 90% of the estimated benefits are to increase crop production. Crop production in the affected area is already substantial, and the benefits of increased drainage minor, particularly by comparison with the large scale adverse impacts on wetlands, floodplain habitat and hydrologic services.

For many years, the policies under the Clean Water Act and Swampbuster have been to avoid these kinds of adverse impacts on aquatic habitat for such purposes: Swampbuster is explicitly designed to deny drainage of wetlands, included cropped wetlands, for enhanced crop production; and under the regulations of the Clean Water Act, these kinds of aquatic impacts are

to be denied except for unavoidable purposes that must be located in these kinds of habitats, which is not true of crop production. On its face, the St Johns-New Madrid project is therefore contrary to our laws and purposes.

Natural resource agencies such as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation, and distinguished independent scientists, have long advised the Corps that this project cannot practically be mitigated. Their consistent position has been that the project "would cause substantial, irretrievable losses of nationally significant fish and wildlife resources, and greatly diminish rare and unique habitats in southeast Missouri."

Under established principles of mitigation, it is not possible to drain a large area of relatively naturally flooded habitat – particularly the type of backwater floodplain habitat open to the Mississippi River, which has now been nearly extinguished – by artificially manipulating smaller areas. The only theoretically possible mitigation would be to reopen connection to the River and re-create a comparably large floodplain area elsewhere with a comparable flood regime, which would obviously undermine the proposed "economic benefits" of draining more land for cropping.

By refusing to accept these basic principles of ecology and mitigation, principles that are reflected in the Corps' own wetland mitigation policies, the Corps has spent millions of dollars of U.S. taxpayers' funds going through six separate versions of environmental documents, and engaged in tortured analysis to try to get around this basic scientific truth.

In the first four versions of these documents, mitigation was based on a fundamental, large mathematical error – repeatedly pointed out by outside scientists -- that the Corps only acknowledged when facing imminent rejection by a Federal court. It then went back to the drawing room and the Corps developed a new, tortured, rationale, which the Federal District Court found "gave new meaning to the phrase 'results-oriented decision-making,'" and "resorted to arbitrary and capricious reasoning – manipulating models and changing definitions where necessary -- to make this project seem compliant with the Clean Water Act and the Nation Environmental Policy Act when it is not."

While the Corps has engaged in these expensive processes, it has consistently rejected project alternatives at a tenth of the cost that would actually accomplish the purpose of providing flood relief for the Town of East Prairie. There are various paths forward to address East Prairie's problems. For example, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, since September 2009, has provided grants totaling \$388,000 to improve East Prairie's stormwater management systems. If the Corps moves forward in any way, it should focus its exclusive attention on providing flood management benefits to East Prairie while avoiding any pumps, closures or other alterations of backwater flooding from the Mississippi River. It should also address the needs of Pinhook. These challenges should be the exclusive focus of any new environmental planning.



Sincerely,

David R. Conrad  
Senior Water Resources Specialist  
National Wildlife Federation

May 28, 2010

Gregg W. Williams  
Memphis District Army Corps of Engineers  
167 N. Main Street, B202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894  
[Gregg.W.Williams@usace.army.gov](mailto:Gregg.W.Williams@usace.army.gov)

**Re: St. John's Bayou-New Madrid Floodway Scoping Comments, Fed. Register 17393**  
(April 6, 2010)

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment writes to express its views regarding the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the "Flood Control, Mississippi River & Tributaries, St. John's Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, Missouri, First Phase" Project, as published at 75 Fed. Register 17393 (April 6, 2010).

The Coalition first points out that the Corps' Federal Register publication does not give sufficient notice because it is missing a deadline for the submission of scoping comments and information on where to submit the comments. It lists only a public scoping meeting on May 11, 2010. The Coalition learned of the Corps' deadline of May 28, 2010 from a letter received from the Corps, but the information is not publicly available either in the official notice or on the Corps' Memphis District website. There are many national groups as well as local groups and individuals who are or would be interested in submitting scoping comments on this project but have not been given sufficient notice to do so. For those that could not physically be at the public scoping meeting on May 11 and whom the Corps may not consider "interested parties," the website and NOI in the Federal Register do not supply information on a deadline by which to submit comments or where to send them. A project of this level of national significance requires the most thorough public notification possible, and the Corps' methods of public notice have the potential to leave a vast number of people, many of whom are interested parties, completely unaware of the current scoping process.

Additionally, the Independent Peer Review and Model Certification documents that describe the St. John's Bayou and New Madrid Floodway proposal on the project review website are voluminous. It is unreasonable for the Corps to expect those who may have only recently gotten notice of the scoping comment period to be able to review and make in-depth scoping comments on this volume of documentation in the short amount of time allotted. Presumably the Corps has been working on putting together this project review plan for quite some time given the amount of documentation, so the agency had the opportunity to give the public notice of this project well

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in advance of the May 28 deadline and chose not to do so. Again, a large project of this level of national significance requires a public comment period with notice and sufficient time to provide comments proportionate to the weight of its projected impacts.

Without waiving its comments regarding the lack of notice, or its right to offer additional comments if the deadline is extended, the Coalition offers its views on what it believes to be a misguided, environmentally destructive and expensive project. Over the past 13 years, it has, along with many other conservation groups and state and federal agencies, pointed out the project's numerous flaws through comments and in pleadings, documentation and testimony in proceedings before the Missouri Clean Water Commission and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. This documentation is incorporated herein by reference.

Although the NOI EIS states that "extensive peer review" of the previous project has occurred, and that the new EIS will "address points raised in the course of legal action," the Coalition remains skeptical that without extensive changes to the project itself-- changes that do not seem to have been made--the proposed project will fail to mitigate the damage to habitat that it will cause. As Judge Robertson observed in reviewing the last two versions of the Environmental Impact Statement, the RSEIS (2002) and the RSEIS2 (2006), the SJNM project's elimination of valuable fish-spawning and rearing territory adjacent to the river would require extensive mitigation acreage-- 124,000 acres to mitigate the equivalent 8,375 average daily flooded acres using the RSEIS' mitigation strategy. Opinion, *EDF v. US Army Corps of Engineers*, No. 04-1575, at 14 (D.D.C. Sep. 13, 2007). The latest iteration, the 2006 RSEIS2, attempted to diminish the amount of mitigation acres needed, by using what Judge Robertson referred to as "result-oriented decision making ... working backwards from the mitigation dollars it could afford ... so as to make the project appear to return a positive cost-benefit ratio." *Id.* at 28. The federal court set aside the 2002 RSEIS, the 2006 RSEIS2 and the Rule of Decision precisely because they used faulty math and legal ledgerdeman to make the project appear to comply with environmental laws and regulations when it did not.

Indeed, it is unlikely that any strategy similar to that proposed by the Corps -- eliminating tens of thousands of acres of naturally flooding wetlands and replacing the lost habitat with scattered sites that will have their water levels artificially manipulated -- is capable of successfully mitigating the negative environmental consequences of the levee and pumping station aspects of the SJNM project. As the FWS observed in its 2006 comments opposing the RSEIS2, the Service was "unaware of any feasible mitigation techniques that can provide in-kind replacement to offset the permanent loss of habitat" this project will cause.

In addition, since 2006, it has become increasingly clear that climate change will have an effect on plant and animal life along the river, and that it will also affect the rainfall levels and flood potentials in the area. For example, the June 2009 report "Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States, issued by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, observed that changes in temperature and water levels, along with the arrival of new invasive species, are themselves likely to cause a loss of native aquatic life. Any plan hoping to mitigate the permanent loss of habitat that the St. Johns'/New Madrid project will cause must also take these climate-change effects into account.



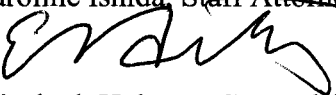
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For all of these reasons, the Coalition: 1) Requests that the Corps reissue the Notice of Intent to prepare its DEIS in the Federal Register with a date by which to submit scoping comments (at least thirty days out from the date of republication) and information on where to send those comments, and 2) Urges the Corps to reconsider its decision to pursue this ill-advised and wasteful project. If the Corps does decide to pursue this project, it should focus on a plan that provides flood management without the extensive environmental damage that its current plan to the eliminate backwater flooding will inevitably cause.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

  
Caroline Ishida, Staff Attorney, Missouri Coalition for the Environment

  
Elizabeth Hubertz, Counsel for Missouri Coalition for the Environment



**MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

P.O. Box 658, 701 South Country Club Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65102 / (573) 893-1400

May 28, 2010

Mr. Danny Ward  
Project Management Branch

Mr. Gregg Williams  
Environmental Section

Memphis District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
167 N. Main, Room B-202  
Memphis, TN 38103-1894

Dear Sirs:

Missouri Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization, supports the St. Johns Bayou-New Madrid Floodway flood control project. This much-needed project has been discussed for decades and flood protection is long overdue for the residents of this area.

A myriad of state and federal agencies have worked together with local residents for years to develop a plan that provides much-needed flood control in an ecologically-sensitive manner. It is disappointing and frustrating that a new Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared given the magnitude of time and resources spent to make the project a reality. Nevertheless, we recognize the circumstances faced by the Corps of Engineers and trust you will again take into account the needs of residents and landowners. After all, they have suffered the most and still have the most to lose if adequate flood protection is not provided.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Kruse  
President