

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
601 Business Loop 70 West, Parkade Center Suite 250
Columbia, Missouri 65203

September 3, 2013

Joshua M. Koontz
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
167 N. Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Koontz:

Missouri Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Project dated July 2013. We concur with the contents of this document as it relates to the definitions of Converted Wetland, Farmed Wetland, and Prior Converted Cropland per Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 12, as described on pages 76 through 77. We also concur with the acreages associated with Vegetated Wetlands and Farmed Wetlands in Table 3.6 as they were originally compiled by Missouri NRCS for the St Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway locales respectively.

If you have any questions please contact Kevin Dacey, Biologist/Wetland Reserve Program Coordinator, at 573-876-0912 or kevin.dacey@mo.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.R. Flores", is written over a printed name and title.

J.R. Flores
State Conservationist

cc:

Harold L. Deckerd, Assistant State Conservationist - WR, NRCS, Columbia, Missouri
Chris Hamilton, State Biologist, NRCS, Columbia, Missouri
Kevin Dacey, Biologist/WRP Coordinator, NRCS, Columbia, Missouri
David Howard, Wetland Regulatory Specialist – Retired, NRCS, Liberty, Missouri