



News Release

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Corps holding meetings on Missouri River flow plan

Omaha – The Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting two public meetings along the Mississippi River to discuss and take comments on the Draft 2004-2005 Annual Operating Plan for the Missouri River.

The meetings were specifically requested by Mississippi River navigation interests due to the potential impact of reduced Missouri River flows on river stages on the middle Mississippi from St. Louis, Mo., to Cairo, Ill. The Missouri normally contributes about 45 percent of the flow of the Mississippi in that reach, but during times of significant drought, this contribution can increase to more than 75 percent.

The navigation season on the Missouri River this year was shortened by 47 days from its normal 8-month season. The draft plan shows that there will most likely be only minimum flows for the 2005 navigation season and that it will be shortened 27 to 61 days, depending on runoff between now and next summer. A final determination on season length will be made on July 1, 2005.

The public meetings will be held Wednesday, Oct. 27, in New Orleans at 7 p.m. in the Double Tree Hotel, 300 Canal Street, and on Thursday, Oct. 28, in St. Louis at 7 p.m. in the St. Louis Marriott Hotel, 10700 Peartree Lane.

The meetings will open with presentations on this year's runoff, reservoir storage, and the management of the six dams and reservoirs. These will be followed by descriptions of the regulation for the remainder of 2004 and the year 2005 for flood control, hydropower, navigation, irrigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, fish and wildlife and endangered species for a wide variety of runoff and storage conditions.

Members of the public will be invited to ask questions, comment, and discuss the draft plan. The draft is available at the "Reports and Publications" link on our website at: www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc or by calling (402) 697-2675.

Comments will be accepted through at the meetings or by writing to: Water Management Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 12565 West Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144 or via e-mail to: Missouri.water.management@nwd02.usace.army.mil.