



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

October 29, 2001

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Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Division Engineer
United States Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division
Post Office Box 80
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39181-0800

Dear General Arnold:

In response to our letter of April 9, 2001, I am pleased that you are seeking the cooperation and support of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the other participating states for implementing Section 402 – Lower Mississippi River Natural Resources Assessment – of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000). We certainly support the need for this assessment of information needed for river-related management, natural resource habitat needs, and the need for river-related recreation and access as Section 402 authorizes for the Lower Mississippi River. We look forward to cooperating with you and others on this assessment. We greatly appreciate Mr. Don Basham of your staff discussing this issue with all the states on May 23, 2001, at the annual meeting of the multi-state Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee. We do not believe, however, that the wording nor the intent of Section 402 was for the normal cost sharing requirements of a traditional feasibility study to apply to this assessment.

We understand that you recommend the first phase of the assessment be a reconnaissance study, which will be conducted in cooperation with the participating states and others at 100 percent federal cost. We would urge you to immediately initiate this phase of the study. We understand that Section 225 of the WRDA 2000 permits the states, as non-federal sponsors, to provide their share of costs, if applicable, through in-kind services, such as materials, supplies, or other services necessary to prepare a feasibility report. When the reconnaissance phase is completed, Kentucky will review those results and determine its level of participation in the assessment and subsequent report to Congress, as well as any resulting activities. We look forward to immediately working with you and your staff on this first phase.

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Commissioner's Office

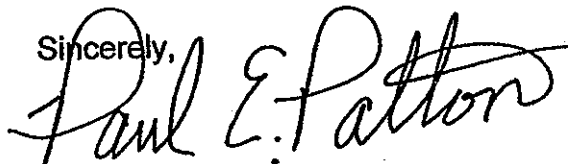


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With the wise use of the Lower Mississippi River's natural resources, sustainable increases to the economies of our state and the Lower Mississippi River states can occur without impacting existing uses of the river. Last year over 10.8 million people in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley participated in fishing and wildlife-related (excluding hunting) outdoor recreation. They spent \$5.9 billion on such items as food, fuel, lodging, and equipment. These kinds of activities and revenues are important to the economy of the region and to our state and the well-being of our citizens. The assessment and report to Congress could contain valuable recommendations, which would sustain the river's natural resources and increase the supporting activities and revenues.

The contact for Kentucky will be Mr. C. Tom Bennett, Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Commissioner Bennett can be reached at (502) 564-3400. Again, I appreciate your seeking the cooperation and support of the state of Kentucky and the other six participating states in this important regional assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Patton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul E. Patton

c: Commissioner C. Tom Bennett