



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
504-862-2201

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Hall, 504-862-2201

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Mississippi River Commission will meet public in Baton Rouge, Friday, April 20

NEW ORLEANS – The public is invited to address questions and concerns to the Mississippi River Commission at a public meeting scheduled Friday, April 20, in Baton Rouge. Young folks will check briefly on how the adults are doing.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. aboard the Motor Vessel *Mississippi* at the City Dock in Baton Rouge, just above the USS *Kidd* museum. It will be the fourth and final public meeting of the seven-member commission's 2007 high-water inspection trip, and the first meeting in Baton Rouge since 2002.

The topics addressed usually concern the Corps of Engineers' missions: flood control, navigation, environmental stewardship, emergency response and recreation.

Friday's agenda

--Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, president of the commission and commander, Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will report on national and regional issues.

--Col. Richard Wagenaar, district commander, will report on the state of the New Orleans District, including hurricane recovery.

--Members of the public will present their views and ask questions.

The youthful presence will be provided by 50 fourth-grade pupils of Sacred Heart of Jesus elementary school in Baton Rouge. They will visit the public

meeting briefly, and also receive water safety and wetlands restoration presentations during their visit to the MV *Mississippi*.

Organized in 1879, the Mississippi River Commission has seven members, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The commission advises the chief of engineers and the secretary of the Army. Staff support is provided by the Mississippi Valley Division, based in Vicksburg, Miss. The division directs the work of the six Corps districts on the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada.

Mississippi River Commission members

Brig. Gen. Crear, president

Sam E. Angel, farmer, Lake Village, Ark.

R.D. James, civil engineer, New Madrid, Mo.

William Clifford Smith, civil engineer, Houma, La.

Rear Adm. Samuel P. De Bow Jr., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Silver Spring, Md.

Brig. Gen. Bruce A. Berwick, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cincinnati

Brig. Gen. Gregg F. Martin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, Ore.

The commission usually inspects the Mississippi River twice each year, in the spring during high water and in the summer during low water. Public meetings are held on each trip.

Media note

For interviews before the public meeting, please call 504-862-2201. If you specify an interest, we may also be able to make available a project manager or other expert. Please board the MV *Mississippi* by 7:45 a.m. Also, if time permits, individuals may grant interviews after the meeting.

Web resources

[Mississippi River Commission](#)

Driving directions. MV *Mississippi* will be moored just upstream of the USS Kidd (World War II destroyer museum) on River Road South. [Here's the map.](#)

[Photo of MV *Mississippi*](#) Scroll down to Aug. 19, 2005.