



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

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Wm. Hall
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Miss. River Commission coming to La., Aug. 26

Inspection boat will begin on Ohio River, so important to Lower Miss.

NEW ORLEANS – The Mississippi River Commission’s 2005 low-water inspection trip will feature an unusual Ohio River leg before concluding in Louisiana on Aug. 26.

Members of the public are invited aboard the MV Mississippi in Morgan City to place their views and questions before the seven-member commission. The public meeting begins Friday, Aug. 26, at 9 a.m., at the Port of Morgan City dock, 800 Youngs Road.

“The Ohio River is important to the Lower Mississippi because it contributes about 60 percent of the water and the Upper Mississippi contributes the remainder,” said Larry Banks, chief of the watershed division, Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, Miss.

“That is why flood damage controls on the Ohio River are so important to the Lower Mississippi communities,” Banks said.

On the Ohio, the commission members will get a first-hand look at the locks, dams and navigation facilities in order to prepare a report for John Paul Woodley Jr., the assistant secretary of the Army for civil works; Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, the chief of engineers, and the Congress.

The commission’s week on the Ohio will begin Aug. 13 in Huntington, W.Va., and conclude Aug. 19 in Paducah, Ky. The commissioners will meet with local interests, projects’ local partners and the other stakeholders, and also inspect and review major projects and studies.

The Mississippi River Commission includes three Corps officers because their commands include the basin’s three great rivers: Brig. Gen. Robert Crear,

president-designee and division engineer, Mississippi Valley Division; Brig Gen. Bruce A. Berwick, division engineer, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and Col. Gregg F. Martin, division engineer, Northwestern Division (Missouri River).

“We work very closely with the Corps’ Lakes and River Division in their management of flood control releases that could impact flood conditions within the Lower Mississippi Valley,” Banks said.

Morgan City public meeting agenda

- Brig. Gen. Crear reports on national and regional issues.
- Col. Richard P. Wagenaar, district engineer, reports on the New Orleans District.
- Members of the public present their views and questions.

Established 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.

Members of the Mississippi River Commission

Brig. Gen. Crear, president-designee
Sam E. Angel, 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. Berwick, Cincinnati, Ohio
Col. Martin, Portland, Ore.

Public meetings on the Lower Mississippi will also include Cairo, Ill., Aug. 22; Memphis, Aug. 23; and Greenville, Miss., Aug. 24. The commission inspects the Mississippi River twice a year, in the spring during high water and in the summer during low water. It holds public meetings on each trip.

Media note. For interviews before Morgan City 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.

Miss. River Commission <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/mrc/index.php>

New Orleans District ‘Who We Are’

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/howeare/index.asp>