

**Boeuf-Tensas Regional Irrigation Water Distribution District
P.O. Box 1065
McGehee, AR 71654
870.222.6190**

**Mississippi River Commission
August 19, 2015
Ann Cash, Executive Director
Southeast Arkansas Study
Southeast Arkansas and Northern Louisiana**

General Wehr and other members of the Mississippi River Commission I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you. My name is Ann Cash and I am the Executive Director of the Boeuf-Tensas Regional Irrigation Water Distribution District in southeast Arkansas and a member of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. I want to take a few minutes this morning to update you on the status of the Southeast Arkansas and Northeast Louisiana Study and discuss our strategy for moving ahead with a plan to actually start delivering surplus Arkansas River water into the Basin.

I appreciate the opportunity to give you a brief update on the status of the Southeast Arkansas and Northeast Louisiana Feasibility Study. All funding for the study is being provided by the sponsors. There are no Federal funds involved. We have made some progress since my report to you last March and expect to get into full swing in the next two or three weeks. The sponsors have had the study funds in hand for a number of weeks but the Corps cannot actually initiate the study until the District receives Headquarters approval of the amended cost-share agreement. The District's project management staff and the Sponsors' coordinating committee have developed a good scope of work which will, if properly managed, deliver a quality product in a timely manner.

We think our project fits well into the Corps vision for our country and 3X3X3 and

SMART planning philosophy. We know that it will be good for the environment, the economy and the people in both Arkansas and Louisiana.

This project will provide a much needed source of supplemental irrigation water for about 700,000 acres of irrigated agriculture in five counties in Arkansas and six parishes in Louisiana. We need your continuing support as we make the feasibility study and then implement the project in a timely manner.

Thank you.

Sam Cash

8/19/15