

Testimony to the Mississippi River Commission

High Water Tour
New Madrid, Missouri
March 23, 2015

by
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Dyer County Tennessee Levee
and
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I would first like to express our appreciation to the Corps of Engineers and to the members of the Mississippi River Commission for your support and partnership in the rehabilitation of the Dyer County Little Levee after the flood of 2011.

The northern realignment is up to grade with the dirt work. The culvert replacement on the south end has had some difficulties. The contractor has constructed a loop to protect us from the current high water. Hopefully we will make it through this flood season and complete all the work prior to the next flood season.

Of continuing concern is the bank caving at Island 21 chute. The bank is very close to the Dyer County Little Levee and continues to approach the toe of the levee. Putting this bank caving aside, the Dyer County Little Levee is very close to being in better shape than I have ever known it to be.

We are concerned about things that are occurring at the national level.

Issue #1

On Friday, February 13, 2015, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled "Emergency Employment of Army and Other Resources, Natural Disaster Procedures" in the Federal Register.

It is our understanding that the Corps is considering changes to the implementation of PL84-99. While I am not sure exactly what those changes

will mean, changes in cost share is mentioned as well as changes to eligibility criteria for rehabilitation assistance. Obviously this is very concerning.

Issue #2

The President issued an executive order in January of 2015 that changes the calculation of flood risk and may change elevation requirements. Are these changes practical? Are they based on good data?

Issue #3

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have proposed a rule that would significantly expand the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act. This proposed regulation seeks to expand federal authority beyond the limits approved by Congress and reaffirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. These changes have the potential to adversely affect everyone in the Mississippi River watershed.

I thank the members of Mississippi River Commission for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



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