



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION
1400 WALNUT STREET
VICKSBURG MS 39180-3262

October 16, 2025

Mr. Mike Walker
Midwest Flood Control Association
1767 308th Avenue
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for joining the Mississippi River Commission during the 413th Session of its Annual Low-Water Inspection Trip and for providing testimony at our public hearing in St. Louis, Mo., on August 15, 2025. This tradition of listening, partnering and inspecting goes back to the Commission's very first inspection trip in 1879. Your participation in this historic tradition is critical for helping the Commission better understand and develop solutions to the water resource challenges facing the people of the valley.

The Commission appreciates the Midwest Flood Control Association's dedication to addressing flood risk and improving flood control systems along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Your testimony highlights the critical challenges faced by levee districts, such as the Green Bay Levee and Drainage District, in navigating the complexities of federal processes while striving to maintain essential flood protection for residents, businesses, and infrastructure.

Your concerns regarding the 408-permission process and its impact on maintaining Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) accreditation are well noted. The Commission recognizes the importance of ensuring that federal processes are aligned and do not create conflicting requirements that hinder the ability of levee districts to protect their communities. The situation you described, where one federal agency requires improvements while another denies the necessary permissions, underscores the need for greater coordination and clarity in federal policies. The Commission will follow-up with the District Commander to see why your Section 408 permit process was paused and to determine if there are any courses of actions to restart it.

The Commission also acknowledges the broader implications of losing FEMA accreditation, including increased insurance rates, reduced property values, and diminished funding for levee maintenance and repairs. These challenges not only affect the Green Bay Levee and Drainage District but also have significant consequences for the livelihoods and safety of all people who depend on these critical flood protection systems.

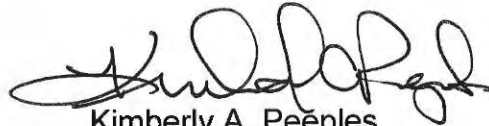
Your request for a legislative fix to address liability concerns and enable levee districts to maintain their current levels of protection is an important consideration.

The Commission will continue to engage with the Corps of Engineers and other federal stakeholders to explore potential solutions that address these challenges while ensuring the safety and resilience of communities along the Mississippi River.

Finally, your comments regarding the removal of dredged sand from the floodway highlight another critical issue that impacts flood risk management. The Commission recognizes the importance of maintaining discharge capacity in the river and will continue to advocate for practices that reduce flood levels and protect public interests.

Once again, thank you for your testimony. We look forward to hearing from you on future inspection ~~trips~~ and working together to improve the watershed so that future generations can continue to enjoy this incredible system we have inherited.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly A. Peebles', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kimberly A. Peebles
Major General, U.S. Army
President, Mississippi River
Commission