



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

October 16, 2025

Mr. Bruce Brinkman
Vice-Chairman of the Board
Midwest Flood Control Association
610 State Route 156
Valmeyer, IL 62295

Dear Mr. Brinkman:

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, Missouri, 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.

We appreciate the insights you shared regarding the critical role of the Southwest Illinois Flood Prevention District and the Midwest Flood Control Association in protecting the St. Louis Metro East region. Your testimony highlighted several important points:

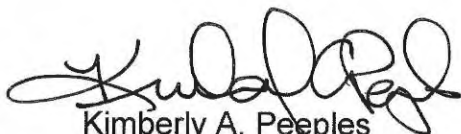
The 74-mile levee system protecting Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe counties is vital to the safety and economic stability of the region. The Commission recognizes the significance of this levee system in safeguarding homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, major transportation infrastructure, and critical industries. We commend your efforts to maintain accreditation and ensure the levee system continues to provide reliable protection.

We understand your concerns about the potential regulatory implications of the flow frequency study on the Lower Missouri and Upper Mississippi Rivers and how the study results could be used as a regulatory tool for PL 84-99 compliance or Federal Emergency Management Agency accreditation. The Commission knows that studies alone are not sufficient to address the flood challenges along the upper Mississippi. Models provide valuable insights, but they must lead to actionable solutions. The Commission is committed to working with stakeholders such as yourself to ensure that any changes resulting from this study is managed in a way that minimizes adverse effects on the communities and businesses that rely on these vital flood protection systems. Section 8219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, which authorized this study, stated that any information developed from this study shall be made publicly available. Therefore, the Commission believes that congressional legislation will likely be required to prevent the information from this study from being used as a regulatory tool until such time actionable solutions have been determined.

The Commission believes the most prudent course of action is direct engagement. We would like for the respective District Commanders COL Aaron Williams, Commander of the Rock Island District, and COL Andy Pannier, Commander of the St. Louis District and their staff to meet with you and your team to discuss this study and the issues you discussed in your testimony.

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. Peeples', written in a cursive style.

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

cc:
COL Aaron Williams (MVR)
COL Andy Pannier (MVS)