



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

# News Release

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**April 20, 2004**

## **Mississippi River Commission meets with the public in New Orleans Friday**

**NEW ORLEANS** – The Mississippi River Commission will conduct its annual “high water” levee inspection public meeting here at the Corps of Engineers’ dock Friday, April 23.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. aboard the motor vessel MISSISSIPPI at 7400 Leake Ave.

The community will have the opportunity to meet commission members and the New Orleans District Engineer Col. Peter J. Rowan.

Commission members will meet with local residents and hear their concerns, ideas and issues. Local interests are invited to present their views and suggestions on matters affecting the water resources infrastructure, including flood control, environmental issues, recreation and navigation.

Friday’s public meeting agenda:

- Brig. Gen. Don T. Riley, president of the commission and division engineer, Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will present a summary of national and regional issues.
- Col. Rowan will make a State of the District report.
- Members of the public, including representatives of local organizations, will make presentations or comments on issues pertaining to flood control projects affecting the water resource infrastructure needs in the valley. The commission encourages views and opinions on other water-related issues such as marine transportation, flooding impacts,

environmental benefits, water and sewage infrastructure and emergency response to natural disasters.

Organized in 1879, the Mississippi River Commission consists of seven members nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Commission members include:

Commission President - Brig. Gen. Riley, U.S. Army, Vicksburg, Miss.

Sam E. Angel, Lake Village, Ark.

R.D. James, civil engineer, New Madrid, Mo.

William Clifford Smith, civil engineer, Houma, La.

Brig. Gen. Steven R. Hawkins, U.S. Army, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Brig. Gen. David A. Fastabend, U.S. Army, Portland, Ore.

Rear Adm. Nicholas A. Prahl, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
Norfolk, Va.

The commission focuses on policy recommendations and work programs, the study of and reporting on the necessity for modifications or additions to the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, recommendations on matters authorized by law, and making inspection trips.

The commission usually inspects the river and holds public meetings twice each year, in the spring during high water, and in summer during low water.