



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Mississippi River Commission schedules Louisiana leg of low-water inspection Public meeting in Houma, Friday, August 23

NEW ORLEANS – Members of the Mississippi River Commission will conduct their annual low water public meeting in Houma on Friday, August 23, aboard the Motor Vessel Mississippi starting at 9:30 a.m., at the Cenac Towing Company Dock, at mile 53 on the Houma Navigation Canal.

This will be the last of seven public meetings aboard the M/V Mississippi in communities along the Mississippi River. The low water inspection trip began August 11 in St. Paul, Minn. Local citizens are given the opportunity to meet and directly address their views to members of the Commission.

The inspection in Louisiana begins Thursday, August 22, with passage through Old River Lock to reach the Atchafalaya River. The vessel docks at Krotz Springs and Morgan City before arriving in Houma via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Friday's agenda:

1. Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold Jr., president of the Commission and division engineer of the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will present a summary of national and regional issues affecting the Corps of Engineers and Commission programs and projects on the Mississippi River and its tributaries.
2. Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer of the Corps' New Orleans District, will make a State of the District Report.
3. Members of the public, including representatives of local organizations, 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.

The Mississippi River Commission, organized in 1879, has seven members, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who are:

- Maj. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold Jr., Vicksburg, Miss.
- Sam E. Angel, planter, Lake Village, Ark.
- R.D. James, civil engineer, New Madrid, Mo.
- William Clifford Smith, civil engineer, Houma
- 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.
- Col. Richard B. Jenkins (secretary, non-voting), Vicksburg, Miss.

The duties of the Commission include the entire length of the Mississippi River from its headwaters to Head of Passes. The Commission focuses on policy recommendations and work programs, the study of and reporting upon the necessity for modifications or additions to the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project (authorized in 1928), recommendations upon any matters authorized by law, and making inspection trips. The Commission usually inspects the river and holds public hearings twice each year, in the spring during high water, and in summer during low water.