



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR

August 14, 2001

Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr.
Division Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division
Post Office Box 80
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39181-0800

Dear General Arnold:

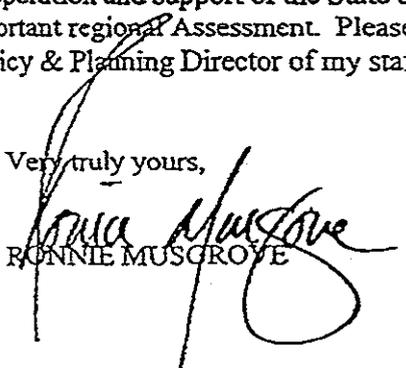
In response to your previous letter, I am pleased that you are seeking the cooperation and support of the State of Mississippi and the other participating states for implementing Section 402 – Lower Mississippi River Natural Resources Assessment – of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (WRDA 2000). I support the need for this assessment for river-related management; natural resource habitat needs; and the need for river-related recreation and access as Section 402 authorizes for the Lower Mississippi River. We look forward to cooperating with you and others on this Assessment.

It is my understand that the first phase of the assessment will be a reconnaissance study, which will be conducted in cooperation with participating states and others at 100 percent Federal cost. *I urge you to initiate this phase of the study.* Additionally, I also understand that Section 225 of the WRDA 2000 permits the States as non-federal sponsors to provide their share of the cost through in-kind services such as materials, supplies, or other in-kind services necessary to prepare a feasibility report. The State of Mississippi has valuable data and expertise that will be essential to the preparation of this assessment and subsequent report to Congress. We are prepared to share this information and expertise.

The contact for the State of Mississippi will be Mr. Phil Bass. Mr. Phil Bass can be reached at The Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 10385, Jackson, Mississippi 39289-0385, Phone (601) 961-5100, Fax No. (601) 961-5337, e-mail: Phil_Bass@deq.state.ms.us.

Again, I appreciate your seeking the cooperation and support of the State of Mississippi and the other six participating States in this important regional Assessment. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Michael Boyd, Policy & Planning Director of my staff, if I can provide additional assistance.

Very truly yours,


RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM:mtb:PB:pl

cc: Charles Chisolm, Executive Director, DEQ