



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

Executive Office

Mr. David L. Weeks
Ouachita River Valley Association
P.O. Box 913
Camden, Arkansas 71701

Dear Mr. Weeks:

Thank you for testifying before the Mississippi River Commission on August 26, 2020, during the Public Meeting held in Greenville, Mississippi.

The Commission is aware that the Ouachita-Black Navigation Project received \$500K in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 President's Budget, which is only enough to minimally dredge the Black River up to Jonesville Lock and Dam and that no funds were appropriated for backlog maintenance or any Prioritization of Maintenance items for FY21.

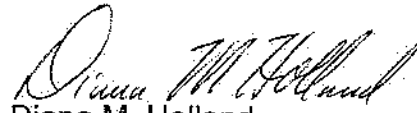
We recognize the importance of the Ouachita River as a source of water supply and commend you on the success of the water storage agreements executed for the DeGray Lake and the City of Hot Springs' water supply projects. These projects demonstrate the achievability of water security in the Ouachita Valley. The Commission encourages you to continue to work with the Vicksburg District and your congressional delegation regarding your desire to include water supply as a project purpose of the Ouachita River. With respect to your desire for placing the lower 63 miles of the Ouachita River's east bank levee into the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project. We encourage you to work with your delegation as such a change would require Congressional action.

Thanks for your support of recreation on the Ouachita River. As you are aware, the number two industry in Arkansas is recreation and the three Arkansas lakes contribute a significant economic benefit to the local communities. As for the DeGray Lake Office, the Vicksburg District is committed to providing a suitable facility for the employees at DeGray Lake.

Addressing your concerns about bank caving, the repair of 11 bank caving sites along the Ouachita River have been approved through the PL 84-99 program. Of the 11 sites, a contract has been awarded by the Vicksburg District to repair five sites with anticipated completion in the fourth quarter FY21. The remaining six sites are currently in the planning phase with an anticipated contract award in the fourth quarter FY21.

The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and looks forward to hearing from you at future meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana M. Holland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Diana M. Holland
Major General, U.S. Army
President, Mississippi
River Commission