



Upper
Mississippi River
Basin Association

ILLINOIS, IOWA, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, WISCONSIN

August 15, 2011

Mr. Marvin Hubbell, EMP Regional Manager
Mr. Chuck Spitzack, NESP Regional Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004

Dear Mr. ^{Hubbell}Hubbell and Mr. ^{Spitzack}Spitzack:

At the May 18, 2011 EMP-CC/NECC joint session, UMRBA staff agreed to review the May 15, 2011 draft Reach Planning After Action Report (AAR) relative to the states' joint comments on the previous draft AAR. We also agreed to work with the Corps in further refining the AAR, if needed. In reviewing the May 15 draft, we have identified a few areas where the states' comments do not appear to be reflected. As you finalize the report, we would like to suggest the following modifications:

1. Expand the report's first recommendation to consider *how* subarea restoration proposals will directly reflect the system and floodplain and geomorphic reach goals and objectives.
2. In the report's eighteenth recommendation, discuss the Corps' refined approach to communications and coordination. It is important that all partners are fully informed about the reach planning process and schedule expectations in order to effectively participate.
3. Add a recommendation that explicitly recognizes the need to implement reach planning in a program-neutral manner. This includes 1) both EMP and NESP managing the RST and overall reach planning efforts and 2) identifying restoration needs and potential projects in a program neutral framework before considering individual programmatic factors.
4. While we support the new eighteenth recommendation, we would suggest expanding the recommendation to address how the Regional Support Team (RST) will more effectively coordinate with all partners throughout the process, and enhance the RST's overall transparency and consistency in guiding reach planning.

As we have stated before, we greatly appreciate the Corps' efforts in developing the AAR and addressing reach planning process-improvements. The AAR will serve as an important tool for making future reach planning iterations more effective and efficient. We encourage you to contact Kirsten Mickelsen or me if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Naramore
Executive Director

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