DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

November 26, 2008

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division
Planning and Project
Management Branch

Mr. Billy Orr, Chairman
Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood
and Drainage Control District
P.O. Box 320069
Flowood, Mississippi 39232-0069

Dear Mr. Orr:

I refer to the following:

a. Our letter of February 14, 2007, providing the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District (RHPRFDCD) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, preliminary draft findings of the Pearl River Watershed feasibility study (enclosure 1).

b. Letter of July 14, 2008, from Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (enclosure 2).

At RHPRFDCD's request, the above-mentioned study findings addressed only two alternatives--the National Economic Development Comprehensive Levee Plan proposed in 1996 and the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP), at that time, "LeFleur Lakes." The Comprehensive Levee Plan was confirmed as the most feasible, from both an economic and environmental aspect. Presently, indications are that RHPRFDCD may be considering a new LPP (one-lake plan) that is significantly reduced in scope as compared to the LeFleur Lakes proposal. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, we are ready to implement the cost-shared Decision Document process described in Mr. Woodley's letter.

Enclosure 3

We have received no formal position from RHPRFDCD with regard to the preliminary draft study findings. If you wish to proceed with the recommended levee plan or an LPP, the Vicksburg District will first conduct an information meeting with other Federal agencies of interest, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, and RHPRFDCD to discuss the environmental acceptability of any version of an LPP. We believe that RHPRFDCD and the Corps must reach a consensus on the FY 09 direction. In view of this, I propose that members of my staff and I meet in executive session with RHPRFDCD immediately after RHPRFDCD's next regularly scheduled monthly meeting on December 8, 2008.

A copy of this letter is being furnished to Mr. Barry Royals, Waggoner Engineering, Inc.

Thank you for consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gary Walker, Senior Project Manager (telephone (601) 631-5469).

Sincerely,

for Joe D. Smith

Douglas J. Kamien, P.E.
Chief, Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division

Enclosures