

**LETTER REPORT
FOR THE REPAIR OF MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY 301 FROM
EUDORA, MISSISSIPPI TO ARKABUTLA LAKE RESERVATION
BOUNDARY**

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

This project entails the repair of approximately 4.2 miles (6.7 km) of Mississippi Highway 301 from Eudora, MS to the Arkabutla Lake Reservation Boundary. This road is maintained by DeSoto County and is a major access from the north to Arkabutla Dam. Both this road and the south access road to Arkabutla Dam in Tate County, also part of State Highway 301, were damaged by heavy equipment travel to and from Arkabutla Lake during and after the Flood of 1991. Neither of these roads were new at that time. Also, while both roads carry the state highway designation, they are owned and maintained by the DeSoto and Tate counties.

DeSoto and Tate county officials asked the Corps to repair the damages to their roads. Mr. H. Martin Lancaster, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) obtained the assistance of the Office of Army General Counsel who determined that authority exists at 33 U.S.C. 701r-1(b) for the Corps to repair these roads. Mr. Lancaster communicated this finding to Rep. Roger Wicker by letter on 4 September 1996.

On 9 October 1996, Mr. John D'Aniello, Acting Director of Civil Works, directed the Commander, Lower Mississippi Valley Division to initiate repairs to State Highway 301 to the extent it was damaged during repairs at Arkabutla Lake and at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. This limit was imposed by Congress in Senate report language associated with the FY 96 Energy and Water Appropriations Act (Senate Report 104-120, dated 27 July 1995). Effective repairs could not be made under this limitation and no action was taken at that time.

On 20 November 1996, Mr. Kyle Jones, CECW-BA, received telephonic approval from Messrs. Bob Schmidt (House) and David Gwaltney (Senate) to transfer \$1,500,000 from the MR&T Channel Improvement, Revetments project (CWIS: 077046) to the Arkabutla Lake project (CWIS: 0006000). This increased the expenditure authority for this project to \$1,600,000.

A contract for \$461,685 was awarded on 23 July 1997 for the repair of the south access road in Tate County. This left an expenditure authority balance of \$1,138,315 for work on the DeSoto County road.

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

The purpose of the repairs is to restore the road to a condition which meets the minimum Federal design criteria for road construction. Additionally, DeSoto County has indicated needs for minor drainage improvements to the road. County officials understand that they must pay for any and all road improvements. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) will be executed with DeSoto County to avail their payment for improvements. Tate County did not request any improvements to the south access road and no MOA was necessary. The repair work will include pulverizing the existing pavement and base to a minimum depth of 8-inches, mixing, cement stabilizing the

resulting mixture, compacting, and surfacing with 3-inches of new hot bituminous pavement. Additional items of work requested by DeSoto County in conjunction with the repair contract include the placement of 290 feet of concrete curb and gutter, removal of three (3) existing corrugated metal pipes and replacement with reinforced concrete pipe, and placement of concrete headwalls at twenty-nine (29) existing concrete culverts. This repair will return the road to its previous condition and meet the minimum Federal design criteria. The estimated Federal construction cost for this work is \$1,016,000 with the additional items of work requested by DeSoto County estimated at \$42,000 (the \$100,000 requested in the MOA is to cover any differences between the government estimate and the bid price). All necessary environmental compliance documentation is included in the Final Environmental Statement dated August 1978 and sent to EPA in final form on January 2, 1979. The Final Environmental Statement was entitled Operation and Maintenance Arkabutla Lake, Enid Lake, Grenada Lake and Sardis Lake Mississippi.