



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Public Affairs Office
CEMVS-PA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. LOUIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins
Hoppies Marina
P.O. Box 44
Kimmswick, Missouri 63053

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins and customers of Hoppies Marina:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District's River Engineering Program as it relates to Hoppies Marina near Kimmswick, Missouri.

We appreciate the time and attention the customers of Hoppies Marina have given to the issue of sedimentation at the marina and the three river training structures just downstream.

During our public meeting in Arnold, Missouri on Jan. 31, 2012, we were able to hear the concerns of the customers and owners of Hoppies, as well as local government representatives and federal legislative staff. As we discussed at the meeting, Congress directs all Corps of Engineers' work. Money appropriated for a particular project cannot be used for purposes other than those authorized for that project as appropriated by Congress.

The Corps of Engineers has a Congressionally-mandated mission to maintain the navigation channel on the Mississippi River, which is accomplished through a variety of ways. River training structures have been a feature of the Mississippi River since the 1800's, and have allowed for a safer, more reliable navigation channel. These structures have also reduced dredging costs to the taxpayers.

The Corps of Engineers is not authorized to use public funds for the benefit of a particular interest, such as dredging the marina. The appropriated funds used in constructing the three dikes near Hoppies Marina derived from the Corps' Regulating Works program. This program restricts funds used to new improvements or construction within the 9-foot deep, 300-foot wide navigation channel. In addition, there are no funds available from either the recreation or environmental sections for this service. Under the Operations and Maintenance authority, the Corps can perform work outside of the navigation channel with environmental or recreational benefits. However, little funds have been appropriated for these purposes and the Corps would have to prioritize this project along with many other backlog needs.

Funds to construct river training structures are appropriated under Construction General. Once the construction is completed, the St. Louis District is able to use appropriated funds from our

Operations and Maintenance program to perform repairs and study the effectiveness of dikes similar to those downstream of Hoppies Marina. We are currently examining possible solutions to the sediment deposition, and will communicate any authority or appropriation we can use in implementing a solution.

We will continue to communicate any progress on this issue with the public through our Public Affairs Office. We have included a brief "Frequently Asked Questions" page to address some of the specific issues posed by Hoppies customers and other members of the public. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the Public Affairs Office at 314-331-8000 or TeamSTL-PAO@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Andrew Schimpf, P.E.
Rivers Project Manager
Navigation Business Line Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District