

**UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
FOR SYSTEMIC FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION AND
ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
JUNE 2006 PUBLIC MEETINGS**

A series of four public meetings were held in June 2006 with the purpose of providing information about the draft report – the draft alternative plan, conclusions, and recommendations – and to obtain public feedback on the draft report.

The public meetings were held in Peoria, Illinois, on June 26th; Burlington, Iowa, on June 27th; Quincy, Illinois, on June 28th; and Chester, Illinois, on June 29th.

The meetings began with an informal open house session, which was followed by a formal presentation, question and answer session, and statement and comment session.

Displays included: maps showing plans B, C, D, E, and G; and, for each of the four reaches within the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan study area, maps of the extent of the 1993 flood, maps of the areas with flood damage reduction projects, and transportation maps. Handouts provided were a comment sheet, copy of the slides from the presentation given at each meeting, CD of the draft report, UMRCP Alternative Plans Summary (preliminary – subject to change), colored maps at the end of the report, and the study newsletter. A few copies of the main report were available upon request.

Approximately 300 persons attended the four public meetings. Tremendous interest in the study report conclusions and recommendations spawned requests for two additional meetings. The first meeting, requested by the Monroe County Farm Bureau, was held on July 31st at the Valmeyer Junior High School, Valmeyer, Illinois, with 170 in attendance. The second meeting, requested by the Union County Farm Bureau, was held August 29th at Schawnee High School, Wolf Lake, Illinois, and drew about 45 attendees.

In all, comments were received from 685 people through one or more means (110 comment sheets, 135 letters, 299 organized response letters, and 141 signatures on two different petitions). Also, 53 people made oral statements at the meetings.

The majority of comments from respondents in the study area above St. Louis favored Plan G, which offers 500-year flood protection. The majority of responses from those in the study area below St. Louis were opposed to Plan G.

Based on responses from the meeting comment sheets, the primary areas of interest in the Comprehensive Plan indicated by attendees are: Levee and Drainage District (38%), business/industry (19%), personal interest (9%) and city/county government (7%).

The comments submitted will be reviewed by the study team members for consideration as the final recommendation is prepared and forwarded to Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C.