

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT
FEBRUARY 2003
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER – ILLINOIS WATERWAY
SYSTEM NAVIGATION STUDY



PURPOSE: These monthly status reports are intended to provide team members, partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties with a brief overview of significant events and activities occurring within the major components of the UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study. We welcome your comments and input on the status reports to ensure they provide timely and useful information. If you identify monthly events that we have overlooked, please let us know and we will correct it on the website. POCs: Denny Lundberg ph.: (309) 794-5632. or email address Denny.A.Lundberg@usace.army.mil or Scott Whitney ph.: (309) 794-5386. or email address Scott.D.Whitney@usace.army.mil

PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Lundberg and Whitney)

- **Independent Review** - In a letter of March 10, 2003, the Director of Civil Works requested that the National Research Council conduct an independent review of the study and feasibility report. The review would cover all aspects of the restructured feasibility study including economic evaluation, environmental analysis, design and engineering, and plan formulation focusing on the key study assumptions.
- **Decision Model Documentation** – The study team is continuing to work on the development of the decision model that will be used to formulate and evaluate alternative plans for navigation efficiency and ecological integrity. Initial drafts of this documentation will be shared and further refined through upcoming meetings with the GLC, NECC, and ECC.
- **Regional Contact Database** – This will no longer be available over the internet. To be in compliance with recently released Department of Army Security regulations governing internet content information, we have removed the contact database from the study website. We will continue to maintain and update this database for study team and stakeholder use, it will be made available upon request.

ENVIRONMENTAL (Barr)

Environmental Sustainability Component

- **Expert Panel:** Panel members met for the second time February 25 and 26, 2003 in Davenport, Iowa to finalize review of the environmental goals and objectives established during the earlier Stakeholder Workshops. In addition, the panel initiated the development of conceptual ecological models, which will be used ultimately as aids in linking environmental management actions, their targets and associated metrics with specific management objectives over various scales of time and space. During the morning of the first day Panel members met with the Navigational Environmental Coordinating Committee to share ideas and gain additional perspectives. Continued efforts on the part of this Panel over the next two months (March and April 2003) will result in technical recommendations for achieving environmental goals and objectives, in view of potential continuing impacts of navigation and other forms of disturbance (both natural and human-induced) to the Upper Mississippi River System. The panel constituency reflects a broad diversity of technical expertise and experience, which will allow a solid scientific basis for future environmental management and restoration efforts on the UMRS.

Environmental Impact Assessment Studies:

- ***Adult Fish Entrainment*** – One final sampling period will be conducted this Spring (April or May).

ENGINEERING (Hughey)

- ***Independent Technical Review*** - The EWG is revisiting the responses to the July 2000 ITR of the Engineering Appendix to ensure responses are up to date and comprehensive. The results of the review will also help formulate the plan for the new ITR in the upcoming year.
- ***Economic modeling*** - The EWG continues to provide input and support for economic modeling for the with-project conditions and review of interim results of the without-project conditions.
- ***Environmental sustainability*** - The EWG is participating in environmental sustainability efforts ranging from meetings to expert panel discussions. Expertise is offered in hydraulics, geomorphology, and environmental pool management.

ECONOMICS (Manguno)

- ***Independent Technical Review (ITR) of Sparks Scenario Report*** - ITR process has been completed. Scenarios have been accepted for use in the study. Documentation is available on the study website.
- ***TOW COST Model (TCM) Development*** - Model results for the without-project condition have been completed and the associated traffic has been provided to the environmental workgroup. With-project model runs will begin in early March.
- ***Economics Coordinating Committee (ECC) Meeting*** - The ECC met in joint session with the NECC on February 24 and in separate session on February 25. Primary topics of discussion were the Sparks Scenario ITR, without-project condition TCM results, and benefit model sensitivity analysis.
- ***Transportation Rate Analysis Review*** - This work, being conducted by TVA, is intended to provide information regarding changes in bulk commodity transportation rates since the original TVA study in 1994. Work was initiated in February.
- ***Non-Structural Alternative Assessment*** - Volpe Center, US DOT, staff continue to investigate potential measures and appropriate analysis framework to evaluate measures. Volpe is working to organize a focus group involving waterway users to help identify relevant characteristics of candidate measures. Tentative date for a focus group discussion is early April.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT (Bluhm)

- The Newsletter is being distributed the week of 10 March.
- The PI Workgroup is developing a list of options for the locations and structure of the upcoming October 2003 round of public meetings. This information will be shared and discussed with the NECC/ECC members during their April meeting.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- ***UMIMRA Annual Meeting*** (February 13-14) Ken Barr and Denny Lundberg provided an update on the UMR-IWW Navigation Study, with special emphasis on the Environmental Goals and objectives.
- ***GLC Meeting*** (February 25) - Major topics of discussion included study schedule, major milestones, decision model documentation, Env. Sustainability objectives, and without project traffic forecasts. Handout copies of the powerpoint presentations on these topics will be made

available upon request. Official meeting minutes from the November meeting were approved by GLC members and are now available on the study website (Reports Section).

- **NECC Meeting** (February 24-25) The NECC/ECC met Feb 24 to review draft environmental objectives workshop reports, consider an inter organization group to review institutional arrangements for program implementation (pathways group) and review without project system traffic forecasts. The NECC and Expert Panel had a combined meeting on Feb 25 to review role of expert panel and discuss Environmental objectives.
- **ECC Meeting** (February 24-25) The ECC met jointly with the NECC on Feb. 24 to discuss ITR of Sparks Companies, Inc. Traffic Scenario Report, Without Project Model Results from ORNL, and Volpe Demand Management/Lockage Scheduling Study. They reconvened separately on Feb 25 to discuss Economic Model Sensitivity Analyses.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OR SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- *Water Level Control Component Meeting* (4-5 March) Davenport, IA
- *Inland Waterways Conference* (11-13 March) Cincinnati, OH
- *Expert Panel Meeting* (March 19-20) La Crosse, WI
- *ASCE Presentation* (27 March) Lake Geneva, WI
- *NECC/ECC Meeting* (22 April) Davenport, IA
- *Expert Panel Meeting* (April 22-23) Davenport, IA
- *RRCT Meeting* (May 7) Davenport, IA
- *GLC Meeting* (May 13) St. Louis, MO
- *UMRBA Meeting* (May 14) St. Louis, MO
- *EMPCC Meeting* (May 15) St. Louis, MO