

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 21, 2012

Brigadier General John McMahon  
Commander and Division Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division  
1125 NW Couch Street  
Portland, OR 97209

Dear General McMahon:

Thank you for responding to my letter (10 Feb 12) regarding the Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) authority under the Missouri River Mainstem System Master Water Control Manual and the importance of keeping updated stakeholders along the River.

The protection of human life and property should be the principal concern when it comes to river management, which is why I believe we must ensure experts have the flexibility to allow for more timely administration of the Missouri reservoir system. With various proposals before Congress, we must remain mindful of unintended consequences and the difficulty of legislating around the variability of climatic and regional conditions.

I strongly encourage the Corps to continue holding public meetings on the current conditions and regulation of mainstem reservoirs. In addition, I will continue working to keep stakeholders apprised of management up and down the River throughout the runoff season. With this objective in mind, I request details of the Corps' efforts to review the flooding events of 2011 and incorporate updated data into modeling and management procedures should we see such levels in the future. Specifically, what key findings has the Corps ascertained regarding management of the River in 2011, and what steps are being taken in the short- and long-term to avoid such a situation in 2012 and future years?

Furthermore, it is my understanding some localities are partnering with state and federal entities to study Missouri River patterns for planning, zoning, and development purposes. I respectfully request more information on such opportunities as well.

Your partnership and expertise are critical to ensuring the events of 2011 were the exception, not the rule. Most importantly, I recognize you and I share the same goals regarding River management and the protection of life and property. Once again, I appreciate your urgent attention to this matter, and look forward to further communication at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



ADRIAN SMITH  
Member of Congress

AMS/am