



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
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June 6, 2011

Major General Michael J. Walsh
Division Commander, Mississippi Valley Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 80
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080

Dear General Walsh:

The state of Missouri stands ready to construct a temporary levee at Birds Point to ensure that the rich agricultural land of southeast Missouri can resume production this year. Construction of this temporary levee is vital, as Missouri farmers must have an adequate level of safety to be able to proceed with planting during the current growing season. Time is of the essence.

My administration is prepared to commit the resources necessary to complete a temporary levee at the site of the initial detonation, known as inflow crevasse No. 1. As Governor, I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expedite review and approval of this plan, which is vital for public safety and economic growth. Additional repairs and reconstruction will be necessary at each crevasse caused by the intentional breach, but providing adequate protection at inflow crevasse No. 1, is a critical initial step to begin the area's recovery.

Let me provide additional background. On May 2, 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers detonated explosives that caused an intentional breach of the Birds Point Levee. This intentional breach flooded 130,000 acres in southeast Missouri, including some of the most productive farmland in the world.

Wherever possible, farmers in southeast Missouri are working quickly to return their cropland to productivity, but a temporary levee at inflow crevasse No. 1 must be in place to provide adequate protection before farming operations can safely resume. These farmers already have missed a significant portion of this year's growing season, and they need to have their crops in the ground as soon as possible.

As I have said, the state of Missouri is ready to move forward on construction of this temporary levee now. Therefore, I ask you to direct your staff to expedite the review and processing of this plan to the fullest extent possible. Further, I ask the Corps to work closely and

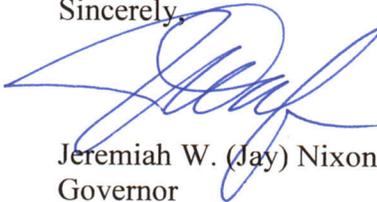
Major General Michael J. Walsh
June 6, 2011
Page Two

cooperatively with affected landowners and communities so that they can understand the timeline and process moving forward. The Corps must be clear and transparent about all regulatory requirements and expectations, and commit the resources necessary to review and approve the work that must be done as efficiently and swiftly as possible.

I know you understand the personal impact this intentional breach had on farms and communities in southeast Missouri. I look forward to your support as we work to help Missourians affected by this breach get back on their feet as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor