

## Press Release

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### **Motor Vessel Mississippi to dock at Harris Riverfront Park**

Huntington, W.Va. – The Mississippi River Commission will begin its annual low-water inspection trip this year from Huntington, W.Va. The Motor Vessel Mississippi will arrive in Huntington, W.Va., Saturday morning, Aug. 13 at 8:00 a.m., and remain docked at Harris Riverfront Park until 3:00 p.m. Sunday when the vessel will depart Huntington to begin its low-water tour.

While docked, the public is invited to two Open Houses to tour the Motor Vessel Mississippi at Harris Riverfront Park, Saturday, August 13 from 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Other activities available at the riverfront will include displays, a dive tank, and a working model of the Winfield lock and dam.

The Mississippi River Commissioners will board the Motor Vessel Mississippi in Huntington, W.Va. Aug. 14 and travel to Paducah by Aug. 19. Also joining the commissioners will be Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley. Along the way, the commission will make a variety of stops to assess navigation, environment and flood damage reduction projects along the Ohio and get a first-hand look at locks, dams and navigation facilities on the Ohio River System in order to

prepare a report to the Chief of Engineers, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and Congress.

The Mississippi River Commission was created by an Act of Congress in 1879 and conducts annual high-water inspection trips in April and low-water inspection trips in August. The Commission is composed of seven members nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. The commander of the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division in Cincinnati, Brig. Gen. Bruce A. Berwick, is a commission member because the Ohio River contributes roughly 60% of the water that flows into the lower Mississippi River.

The official transportation for the commission is the Motor Vessel Mississippi. Ohio River Valley residents had an opportunity to see this large 241 foot-long and 52 foot-high tow boat in Huntington six years ago when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers brought it up the Ohio River for the first time.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for Ohio River navigation with 20 locks and dams, but is also tasked with enhancing and protecting the environment and protecting communities against flooding. The Corps' water management experts operate the Ohio River as a system in order to protect communities throughout the entire Ohio River watershed ---on the Ohio River, its tributaries and the lower Mississippi River.

The Motor Vessel Mississippi is a working boat. It spends more than 90 percent of its time as a tow boat for the US Army Corps of Engineers. It is stationed at Memphis, Tenn. and moves barges, equipment and supplies to perform riverbank protection in the lower Mississippi River and Atchafalaya River.

For information contact the public affairs office at 304-399-5353.