



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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For Immediate Release:
Nov. 3, 2005

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Sen. Bill Stouffer Urges Constituents to Attend Spring Rise Public Meetings

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Bill Stouffer, R-Napton, today encouraged members of the 21st District to attend public meetings to be held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning a proposed spring rise of the Missouri River. Meetings will be held later this month in Kansas City and Jefferson City.

“I urge everyone to attend these meetings to learn more about what this decision will mean for the 21st District and to make your opinions known to federal officials,” Stouffer said. “To fight this potentially harmful proposal, we must be informed and up-to-date on the issue.”

Meetings closest to the 21st District will be held at:

- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15; Embassy Suites, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Kansas City
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16; Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty Street, Jefferson City

The meetings will include presentations on runoff, reservoir storage, and the management of dams and reservoirs. Officials will also discuss regulations for the remainder of 2005 and 2006 concerning flood control, hydropower, navigation, irrigation, recreation, water supply and quality, and fish and wildlife. Public comment about the spring rise plan will be allowed at the public meetings.

After being ordered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to implement a spring rise of the Missouri River in an attempt to promote breeding among birds and fish, the corps released formal plans in October for two spring rises in 2006. However, the man-made rises, to be held in March and May of next year, threaten Missouri River basin farmers with a greater chance of flooding. Commercial carriers and hydroelectric plants could also suffer from artificial shifts in water levels. The release of the plans went against a Senate Concurrent Resolution sponsored by Sen. Stouffer and passed by the Missouri Legislature urging the federal government to reverse the spring rise decision.

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“I have seen no proof that the spring rise will benefit local wildlife,” Stouffer said. “The decision to go forward with this environmental experiment is a direct affront to the hardworking farm families of the 21st District and the entire state of Missouri.”

The corps also will be holding public meetings at:

- 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14; Division Office, 12565 West Center Road, Omaha, Neb.
- 7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 14; Steinhart Lodge, Steinhart Park Road, Nebraska City, Neb.
- 1 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16; Crowne Plaza-St. Louis Airport, 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, St. Louis, Mo.
- 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17; Best Western Ramkota, 920 West Sioux Ave., Pierre, S.D.
- 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov 17; Doublewood Inn, 1400 E. Interchange Ave., Bismarck, N.D.
- 1 p.m., Friday, Nov 18; Cottonwood Inn, U.S. Highway 2 East, Glasgow, Mont.

The Draft 2005-06 Annual Operating Plan is available on the Northwestern Division Web site at www.usace.army.mil or by writing to the Water Management Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 12565 West Center Road, Omaha, NE 68144.

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