DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CECW-P

APR 6 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, Mississippi Valley Division (CEMVD-PD)

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 4002(c) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 – Greater Mississippi River Basin Severe Flooding and Drought Management Study

1. Section 4002(c) of WRRDA 2014 authorizes a study of the Greater Mississippi River Basin (GMRB) defined as the area covered by U.S. Geologic Survey hydrologic units 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11, to improve the coordinated and comprehensive management of water resource projects in the GMRB relating to severe flooding and drought conditions. The study is to identify and evaluate modifications to those projects consistent with their authorized purposes as well as identify and evaluate the development of new water resource projects to improve the reliability of navigation and more effectively reduce flood risk. Subsection 4002(c)(3) requires a report to be submitted to Congress and made publicly available within 3 years of enactment of WRRDA 2014. Subsection 4002(c)(4) states that nothing in this subsection impacts the operations and maintenance of the Missouri River Mainstem System, as authorized by the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the "Flood Control Act of 1944"). A copy of Section 4002(c) is enclosed.

2. No study may be initiated pursuant to Section 4002(c) unless funds are specifically appropriated for such work. If funds are appropriated, Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) will take the lead for the study, in coordination with Northwestern Division, Southwestern Division, and Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Further, given the potential scope and complexity of this study additional guidance will be provided by Corps Headquarters to help identify a non-Federal sponsor and to address the initial scoping effort as well as the preparation, coordination, and processing of a report. The study will be cost shared 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal.

3. At such time the study is undertaken, it should address challenges posed by severe flooding and drought to maintaining safe, reliable navigation on the Mississippi water ways; identify physical impediments to navigation on the lower and middle Mississippi River during low water; and identify Federal actions to manage flood risk and manage the adverse effects of drought and flooding on navigation. The study will evaluate modifications to existing water resource projects in the GMRB consistent with the authorized purposes of those projects as well as evaluate the development of new water resource projects to improve the reliability of navigation and more effectively reduce flood risk. Existing data will be used to the extent possible as well as any

information developed as a result of past severe flooding and drought events. The report will be processed in accordance with Appendix H of ER 1105-2-100 and provided to the MVD and Corps Headquarters (Attn: CECW-MVD) for review. The Headquarters will provide the report to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for review and transmittal to Congress in accordance with Section 4002(c)(3).

Encl

THEODORE A. BROWN, P.E.
Chief, Mississippi Valley Division
Regional Integration Team
Directorate of Civil Works

Section 4002 (c) GREATER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN SEVERE FLOODING AND DROUGHT MANAGEMENT STUDY.-
(1) DEFINITION OF GREATER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN.-In ***this subsection, the term "greater Mississippi River Basin"*** *means the area covered by hydrologic units 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11, as identified by the United States Geological Survey as of the date of enactment of this Act.*
CEL14515 S.L.C. 120
(2) IN GENERAL.-The Secretary shall carry out a study of the greater Mississippi River Basin-
(A) to improve the coordinated and comprehensive management of water resource projects in the greater Mississippi River Basin relating to severe flooding and drought ***conditions; and***
(B) to identify and evaluate-
(i) modifications to those water resource projects, consistent with the authorized purposes of those projects; and
(ii) the development of new water resource projects to improve the reliability of navigation and more effectively reduce flood risk.
(3) REPORT.-Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report on the study carried out under this subsection.
(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.-Nothing in this subsection impacts the operations and maintenance of the Missouri River Mainstem System, as authorized by the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the "Flood Control Act of 1944")(58 Stat. 897, chapter 665).