

## 7.0. RECOMMENDATIONS

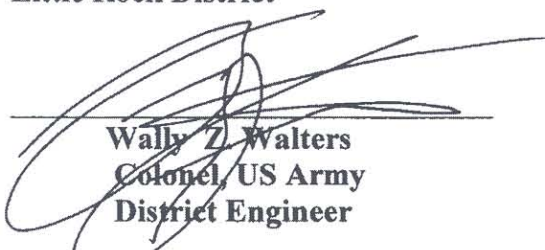
We have given consideration to all significant aspects in the overall public interest. Those aspects include environmental, social, and economic effects; and engineering feasibility.

We concur that the recommended plan is Alternative E consisting of the navigation channel maintenance component, operations only flow management component, and the 12-foot channel depth for the entire MKARNS component. The recommended plan has a total project cost of \$166,400,000 (July 2004 price levels) and has a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.8 to 1. The deepening component of the recommended plan has a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.08 to 1. All of the cost is associated with channel deepening and the major cost items include new dikes and jetties (\$38.9 million), dredging and rock removal (\$30.7 million), construction of dredge disposal areas (\$31.6 million), and environmental mitigation (\$23.7 million). Key mitigation elements include relocation of disposal areas to avoid valuable aquatic habitat, dike and revetment notching, relocation of mussels, backwater channel improvement, and monitoring. Mitigation for implementing the recommended plan is described in the Final EIS, a separate document, dated August 2005.


This plan is being recommended with such modifications thereof as in the discretion of the Commander, HQUSACE may be advisable.

The recommendations contained herein reflect the information available at this time and current Departmental policies governing formulation of individual projects. They do not reflect program and budgeting priorities in the formulation of a national Civil Works construction program nor the perspective of higher review levels within the Executive Branch. Consequently, the recommendations may be modified before they are transmitted to the Congress as proposals for authorization and implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to the Congress, the non-Federal interests, the States, interested Federal agencies, and other parties will be advised of any modification and will be afforded an opportunity to comment further.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Little Rock District**

  
**Wally Z. Walters**  
**Colonel, US Army**  
**District Engineer**  
8/8/05  
Date

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Tulsa District**

  
**Miroslav P. Kurka**  
**Colonel, US Army**  
**District Engineer**  
9 Aug 05  
Date