

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

May 9, 2011

Major General Michael Walsh
Commander
Mississippi Valley Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1400 Walnut Street
Vicksburg, MS 39180

Dear General Walsh,

As current conditions and hydrological models of the Mississippi River suggest an opening of the Morganza Spillway will become a necessary action, I respectfully request that you provide no less than five (5) days notice to the residents of the Atchafalaya Basin before opening the Spillway.

As the Morganza Spillway has not been opened since 1973, the residents and landowners of the Basin need as much time as possible to secure their possessions and make an informed decision about the necessity of leaving during the flooding. Additionally, every parish within the Basin has an above-average percentage of senior citizens; these individuals will need as much time as possible to evacuate the basin.

I also point out that there are a large number of camps and second homes within the Basin; the individuals that own these properties will need to take time off of work to travel to the Atchafalaya and remove their property. Having five days notice gives them the time necessary to make these arrangements.

Finally, as this flood is falling during significant fishing seasons, there is an increased number of fishermen in the Basin. These individuals need advanced notice of the opening of the Morganza Spillway so they are not forced to make uninformed decisions on actions that will have enormous financial impacts on their businesses.

I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for the tremendous effort you have put forward in order to protect Louisiana from this historic flooding. If I can be of service please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully,



Jeff Landry
Member of Congress