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## President's Letter



Greetings to all!

I write this as I cope with my 15 minutes of fame, May 17. Today, we had NBC and CBS doing stories about the Natchez-Adams County Port. I have an empty barge floating four feet above the tie down and the River is shut down to northbound traffic. I'm almost afraid to watch the news tonight – it's always different when you live it!

Below is an email I sent to some of you:

To those affected by the Waters of the Mississippi, don't be angry. The Father of Rivers is just trying to complete its ordinance from the Creator. With only the banks as guidelines and rules of conduct, swollen beyond the normal, with nowhere to go, what is to be expected from such a Great River? Realizing the advice given "there is nothing we can do," Mankind should have done just that – NOTHING – and the river would have obeyed nature's instructions. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

See you all at Natchez in November for our **Annual Conference to be held November 8-10** (change of date) in conjunction with the MS World Trade Center. Sure do look forward to seeing everyone here!

Anthony Hauer  
MWRA President

**MWRA Mission Statement:**  
*MWRA promotes the advancement of Mississippi rivers, ports and harbors, coastal and inland waterways, flood control, recreation, water development and management, water supply and all other beneficial uses of water resources.*

## MWRA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED



Every year, MWRA provides a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving high school senior. This year, congratulations are in order for Vicksburg High School graduate **Amanda Guizerix**, winner of the 2011 MWRA Capt. Engram River Studies Scholarship Award. And what an outstanding student she is! Her unique combination of academic awards, leadership, community service and athletics catapults her to a top ranking of the MWRA scholarship award winners. Among her academic accomplishments are the 2011 United Way Scholarship Award, Gator Academic Award, Art Awards, Swimming Awards, French Awards and the Homecoming Honor Court. She was also Captain of the Girls' Soccer Team, Student Council Class Representative several years, and President of United Way Teen Help, a swim instructor, an acolyte, and a member of the tennis team.

MWRA will award the scholarship on Thursday, November 9 in Natchez at our Annual Meeting. Her parents and High School River Studies instructor Ed Wong will also attend. It's a wonderful celebration of our youth, and MWRA is always proud to provide this award! Amanda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Skipper Guizerix and will attend the University of Mississippi in the Fall.

## PORT GIBSON NEWS: Initial Barge of Modular Components for Plant Upgrading Arrives

Just before 7:00 AM on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> the barge containing four (4) five-hundred-fifty-thousand-pound transformers for the upgrading of Grand Gulf Nuclear Station and a four-hundred-ton-capacity barge-mounted crane to unload the transformers arrived at the Claiborne County Port from the Port of New Orleans. Unloading and transporting the transformers from the port to the south entrance of Grand Gulf took place over the course of the next several days.



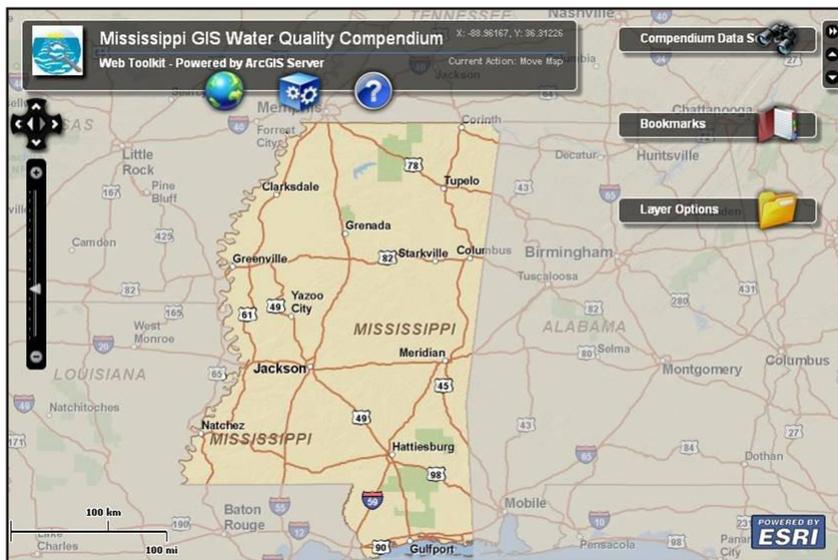
The transformers were manufactured in South Korea by Hyundai Heavy Industries and transported by ocean-going vessel to the United States, initially to the Port of Mobile. From there, the transformers were placed on barge by Barnhart Crane & Rigging of Memphis and made their way to the Port of New Orleans and, after a brief layover due to a low river stage, on to the Claiborne County Port.

The next barge of components for the upgrading of Grand Gulf is not expected until November. The next scheduled outage and upgrading of the nuclear plant will take place in the spring of 2012.

– Submitted by James Johnston

# MISSISSIPPI WATER QUALITY DATA COMPENDIUM

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District (USACE), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) perform a broad range of data collection activities to assess water quality conditions in the state. Due to the wide variety of data collection activities, there was a need to improve interagency communication and coordination concerning water quality data collection. These three agencies have worked together to start a GIS-based water quality data compendium.



MDEQ facilitated the development of this mutually beneficial project with technical support from The Geospatial Group. This data compendium should help the project partners and other stakeholders foster increased access and use of the existing water quality data, identify gaps and/or overlaps in data collection, and enhance effective management of the available resources.

The data compendium is developed to include information on the existing water quality data in a simple and user-friendly manner. This compendium currently includes the existing water quality data of MDEQ, USACE, Yazoo Basin sites, and

USGS. A GIS toolkit provides the project partners and other agencies with easy access to the existing water quality data and other pertinent information. The compendium shows the location of water quality data collection sites or projects and provides a description of the data including contact information to obtain the data. The compendium search layers include information on permits, BMPs, stream flow, water quality sampling stations and other data. In addition to the data search layers, additional background layers are provided for the user's benefit. The background layers include impaired waters, drainage areas, National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) 2006 landuse, designated uses, and other base layers.

The data compendium and additional information on the available data layers can be accessed at: <http://opcgis.deq.state.ms.us/MSWQDataCompendium>.

For additional information on the compendium, please contact either Mr. Daryl Cook, GIS Program Manager, The Geospatial Group at 601-961-5321 or Mr. Pradip Bhowal, Environmental Administrator, MDEQ Basin Management Branch at 601-961-5082.

– Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

*This photo was taken May 13, 2011 at Vicksburg by John DeGroot and submitted to MWRA to depict the River, even before flood stage!*



## CORPS RELEASES FY11 WORK PLAN

The Army Corps of Engineers has released its work plan for the remainder of fiscal year 2011.

Appropriation Account	Gross	.2% Rescission	Net
INVESTIGATIONS	\$ 127,000,000	\$ 254,000	\$ 126,746,000
CONSTRUCTION	\$ 1,793,409,000	\$ 3,586,818	\$ 1,789,822,182
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,370,500,000	\$ 4,741,000	\$ 2,365,759,000
REGULATORY PROGRAM	\$ 190,000,000	\$ 380,000	\$ 189,620,000
MISSISSIPPI RIVER & TRIBUTARIES	\$ 264,435,000	\$ 528,870	\$ 263,906,130

Please go to the Corps' website for the detailed allocations:

[http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PID/Pages/cecwm\\_progexe.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PID/Pages/cecwm_progexe.aspx)

– Courtesy of National Waterways Conference, May 17, 2011

## RIVERWORKS DISCOVERY ASKS FOR MWRA SUPPORT



RiverWorks Discovery (RWD) is a nationally recognized education outreach effort of the National Rivers Hall of Fame located at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa. The program teaches children and their families about the commerce, culture and conservation of America's rivers and their watersheds. The program was created in 2004 by AEP River Operations, and due to its exponential growth and success, the program was gifted to the Museum in 2010.

Today, RWD has 53 co-sponsors and 16 non-profit partners nationwide who make it possible for RWD to provide free educational materials and presentations to the public. RWD has educated more than 350,000 children and families since its inception through involvement with various festivals, conferences, seminars, school presentations, and hands-on workshops in 16 states.

RiverWorks Discovery is a coordinated effort that brings together the river industry, community leaders, museums, nature centers, educators and the general public to recognize the important role our rivers have played throughout history and will continue to play in our nation's future. RWD supports the work of sponsoring organizations by introducing children to river career opportunities through hands-on activities and educational materials.

To find out how to bring RiverWorks Discovery to your event or location, contact Errin Howard at [errin@riverworksdiscovery.org](mailto:errin@riverworksdiscovery.org) or 513-403-9312.

Please visit the RWD online calendar at [www.riverworksdiscovery.org](http://www.riverworksdiscovery.org) to keep informed about upcoming RWD events nationwide. And remember to "Like" us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/riveroutreach>.

# Calendar of Events 2011

- July 13 MWRA Board of Directors Meeting, 1:00 PM, Pearl River Basin Development District, Jackson, MS (Mike Davis' office)
- Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 **Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Conference**, Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL.  
Information: [www.tenntom.org](http://www.tenntom.org)
- Sept. 13 - 16 **SmartRivers Conference**, Hilton Riverside, New Orleans.  
Information: [www.smartrivers.org](http://www.smartrivers.org)
- Sept. 19 - 21 **National Waterways Conference**, Fort Worth, TX.  
Information: [www.waterways.org](http://www.waterways.org)
- Oct. 19 - 21 **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterways Symposium**, Omni William Penn, Pittsburgh, PA.  
Information: [www.waterwayscouncil.org/wci.htm](http://www.waterwayscouncil.org/wci.htm)
- Nov. 8 - 10 **MS World Trade Center / MS Water Resources Assn. Intermodal and Freight Conference**, Natchez Grand Hotel.  
Information: [www.mswtc.org](http://www.mswtc.org)
- Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 **WorkBoat Show**, Morial Convention Center, New Orleans.  
Information: [www.workboatshow.com](http://www.workboatshow.com)

## **2012**

- Feb. 1 **MS Intermodal Council Board of Directors Dinner**, Old Capitol Inn, Jackson. Information to follow.
- Feb. 2 **Mississippi Intermodal Council** Breakfast with our Legislators, Old Capitol Inn, Jackson. Information to follow.
- March 12 - 14 **NWC Budget Summit**, Madison Hotel, Washington, DC.  
More information to follow.