JOHNSON/dw/5935
ED-TS

MARCH 05, 1985

DUBUISSON
ED-TS

Engineering Division

GRISHAM
ED-TL

SUBJECT: Adjustments to NGS Bench Marks

MISKELLEY
ED-TD

RA John D. Bossler
Director, Charting and
Geodetic Services, NOAA
U.S. Department of Commerce
Rockville, MD 20852

W. R. HILL
ED-T

Dear Admiral Bossler:

WEAVER
ED-C

The results of the NGS 1983 adjustments to the Vertical Datum in the Gulf Coast area have been formally published and the new adjustments have significant implications for a number of our projects. Of particular concern to this office are those adjustments which result in changes in elevation to bench marks in South Louisiana and the potential effects on flood control and hurricane protection works in that area.

KAUFMAN
ED-R

A preliminary study performed by the New Orleans District which compares prior elevations of NGS bench marks with elevations resulting from the 1983 adjustments indicate a general lowering of elevations along the Mississippi River in the southern half of the state. Based on the data analyzed, a maximum rate of settlement of -0.06 feet per year in certain areas has been determined. This rate of settlement could result in a deficiency in top elevation of over one foot for some of our facilities in only 20 years.

LOUQUE
ED-W

KAUFMAN
ED-A

In view of the implications to existing facilities and possible changes to projects in the planning and design stage, we would appreciate at your earliest convenience any information you could give us concerning the level of confidence that can be expected from the 1983 adjustments before we begin using this new elevation data in current projects and before initiating any modifications to existing facilities.

BAYLEY
PD

GRAHAM
RE

FOR THE COMMANDER:

J. HILL
CO

R. H. RESTA, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division

RESTA
ED

CF:
LMNED
DAEN-ECE-B (Mr. Miles)

MASCOTT
ED-T (FOR CF)

Comeback
M. Agostinelli
R. Johnson
7 Apr 84