Atchafalaya Basin Plan Is Accepted By Engineers

Governor David C. Treen said the Corps of Engineers has accepted the basic elements of the Louisiana Land Use Proposal for the Final Atchafalaya Basin Management Plan.

The Governor, in Philadelphia today attending a meeting of the Republican Governors Association, said the Study Management Group, named by the Corps to develop a final management plan, met today and there was general agreement on the state's proposal. The Study Management Group included representatives from EPA, Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana.

The Governor said this proposal will preserve the basin as a wilderness without unnecessarily infringing on the rights of private landowners. The plan was praised as "a very reasonable and workable proposal to maximize flood control capabilities of the basin floodway while enhancing the basin's tremendous fish and wildlife values," by Mr. Thomas Kimble, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation.

The plan recommends 255,000 acres, approximately 43 percent of the basin land, be opened to public accessibility. Of the 443,000 privately-owned acres in the Basin, only 75,000 would be subject to the more restrictive A-1 or A-2 easements.