



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT



SHERRI H. LEBAS, P.E.
SECRETARY

Mr. Keith Chandler
Chandler Monitoring Systems, Inc.
1221 Silverwood Court
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043

Dear Mr. Chandler:

As you are aware, on March 23, 2011, the Interstate 20 Bridge over the Mississippi River was struck by a tow of fully loaded barges. This impact resulted in one barge sinking south of the bridge and one barge becoming lodged and partially submerged on pier E-1 of the bridge. The high water and strong currents presented numerous challenges and prolonged the salvage operation. It was not until April 11, 2011, that the barge was successfully cut into two pieces. The cutting of the barge resulted in the barge section on the east side of the pier sinking to the river bottom, while the barge section on the west side of the pier remained fixed on the pier. On April 13, 2011, the portion of the barge lodged on the west side of the pier was removed. On April 19, 2011, twenty-seven days after the original impact, the sunken portion of the barge east of the pier was recovered from the river bottom, thus completing the on-site portion of the salvage operation.

Now that the on-site salvage operation has been completed, I wanted to personally thank you and Justin for your cooperation and assistance during the entire salvage operation. It was only through the cooperative efforts of numerous public agencies and private partners, such as Chandler Monitoring Services, that we were able to successfully and safely complete the on-site salvage operations under very difficult circumstances. Your assistance in continuously monitoring the structural health of the bridge played a major role in the process. Your willingness to share your video communications, in the form of webinars, is also much appreciated.

On behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, I want to commend you and your staff for their outstanding cooperation and tireless efforts during the entire salvage operation. Our ability to continuously monitor the structural integrity of the bridge proved invaluable and allowed us to minimize the adverse impacts to traffic traveling on Interstate 20. The structural health monitoring system on the Interstate 20 Bridge has certainly proved its tremendous value during this incident.