



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Memphis District

# News Release

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Release No.

PA-11-09

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## **Corps of Engineers prepares to activate the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway Operations Plan**

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 25, 2011 – The Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, began readiness plans to operate the Birds Point-New Madrid (BP-NM) Floodway today (April 25). A decision to exercise the next steps to be prepared to use the BP-NM floodway component of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project will be made at 1 p.m. tomorrow.

The Floodway is part of a flood risk management plan for the lower Mississippi River designed to minimize damage to property, structures and to help save lives from historic flood levels – also referred to as the Project Flood – on the lower Mississippi River.

The Commander of the Memphis District has the responsibility to plan and operate the BP-NM Floodway upon direction from the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) President. The 1928 Flood Control Act gives the President of the MRC the authority to operate the BP-NM Floodway when the Mississippi River reaches 58 feet on the Cairo, Ill., gage with the prediction to rise to 61 feet and rising.

No decision can be made at this time whether or not to artificially open the floodway. However, as set forth in the operation plan, preparation for that event is necessary at this time in order to carry out the activation of the floodway, should flood pressures on the comprehensive system require activation.

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