



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE

Oct. 3, 2011

Birds Point - New Madrid Floodway
Missouri

New Madrid Project Office

Memphis District

Schedule

Authorization to proceed:	June 15, 2011
Began construction:	June 16, 2011
Original required completion:	Nov. 30, 2011
Current required completion:	Nov. 30, 2011
Current scheduled completion:	Nov. 30, 2011
- Upper crevasse:	Nov. 16, 2011
- Center crevasse:	Nov. 30, 2011
- Lower crevasse:	Oct. 9, 2011



Progress

Location:	Scheduled Progress:	Actual Progress:
Upper crevasse:	60%	69%
Center crevasse:	26%	25%
Lower crevasse:	82%	80%

Funding

Expended to date:	\$6,868,000
(As of Sept. 29)	



Clay is loaded into contracted trucks Thursday. The clay will be placed in the levee at the upper crevasse.

Scope of work

During activation of the Birds Point - New Madrid Floodway, three artificial crevasses in the levee were opened to allow floodwater to flow through the Floodway, reducing water elevations and pressure on the flood control system. This project repairs the levee at the three crevasse locations to provide interim protection to a flood elevation of 51 feet on the gage at Cairo, Ill. (39 feet on the gage at New Madrid).

The upper crevasse is located at Birds Point, near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Repairs are required for 9,000 feet of levee at this location. Work here includes filling five scour holes back to level grade, repairing four levee segments and constructing one segment realignment.

The center crevasse is located near Seven Island Conservation Area. Repairs are required for 800 feet of levee at this location. A scour hole developed here, connecting with the existing 1937 scour hole. Work here includes separating the two scour holes, filling the new scour hole using sand dredged from the river bottom, and repairing the levee to the interim grade.

The lower crevasse is located near Donaldson Point Conservation Area. Repairs are required for 4,700 feet of levee at this location. Work here includes removing excess water at the foundation, and repairing the levee to the interim grade.

Current Progress

Upper crevasse: A Memphis District crew consisting of 22 personnel and 16 pieces of heavy equipment is on site. All five scour holes are filled with sand to the required depth. Crews are currently filling the final of five scour holes, as well as reconstructing the levee over the top of the previously-filled scour holes. Nearly 6,000 feet of levee is awaiting inspection. A total of 1,800 feet of levee have been built to a (Cairo) gage elevation of 51 feet at this location.

Center crevasse: A Memphis District crew consisting of seven personnel and ten pieces of heavy equipment is on site. The crew continued harvesting sand for use as fill material in the scour hole. Memphis District engineers are installing a silt curtain that will separate the existing and new scour holes. The silt curtain will prevent silt plumes from entering the existing scour hole. The dredge contractor is currently constructing a pipeline that will be used to pump sand from the Mississippi River to the scour hole. The dredge arrived Friday and dredging is scheduled to begin in early October.

Lower crevasse: A Vicksburg District crew consisting of 14 personnel and 16 pieces of heavy equipment is on site. A 2,000-foot levee segment is ready for inspection. The crew is reconstructing a 1,500-foot long levee segment, and continues to prepare the foundation for the remaining 1,200 feet of levee at this site.

Blasting agent removal: Desensitized blasting agent remains stored at the upper and lower crevasses. The results of a laboratory characterization confirmed the blasting agent is not an explosive risk. The Corps has received one of two required permits from the US Department of Transportation. Receipt of the second permit and removal of the blasting agent is now estimated for mid-October. The blasting agent will remain secured inside a fenced perimeter at each site until removed.

OPERATION RESTORE

The follow-on project to Operation "Make Safe", called Operation "Restore", will reconstruct the Floodway system to the pre-operational level of protection. The construction schedule is contingent on the availability of funding.



A Vicksburg crew constructs a section of levee Friday. Rain has put actual progress slightly behind scheduled progress. Work is expected to proceed rapidly with the dry weather, and the crew is expected to meet the scheduled completion date here for levee repairs, but additional work will continue after Oct. 9.



Engineers construct a silt curtain at the center crevasse Monday. The silt curtain will prevent silt plumes from entering the existing scour hole.



The dredge Iowa arrives Friday at the center crevasse. The dredge contractor is constructing a pipeline that will transport sand more than a mile from the dredge to fill the scour hole at this location.