



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Sept. 23, 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:	52%	55%
Center crevasse:	6%	7%
Lower crevasse:	73%	74%

Funding

Expended to date: (As of Sept. 22)	\$5,738,000
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The third of five scour holes at the upper crevasse was restored to level grade Thursday. The fourth scour hole is being filled in the background.

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

A rental contract for three off-road dump trucks was protested by another offeror to the Government Accounting Office Tuesday. The trucks cannot be used pending a determination by the GAO. This protest does not prevent use of trucks rented on a separate concurrent contract, or use of Corps-owned trucks.

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 continue to apply a clay cap to the fourth of five scour holes. A 2,000-foot segment across the first two scour holes is ready for inspection, and crews continue work on an 1,800-foot realigned segment. A total of 1,800 feet of levee have been built to a (Cairo) gage elevation of 51 feet at this location. Rain Thursday night limited work Friday to road and equipment maintenance.

Center crevasse: A Memphis District crew consisting of seven personnel and nine pieces of heavy equipment is preparing the ground for construction at this site. The crew is initially harvesting sand deposited during the flood for use as fill material. The dredge contractor began mobilizing shore assets Thursday.

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, and the crew is continuing to make progress on a 1,500-foot levee segment. The crew is also processing material for the foundation of the last 1,200 feet of levee.

Blasting agent removal: All waste pipes and contaminated soil were removed Thursday. 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 requested and is awaiting permits from the US Department of Transportation to remove the blasting agent, estimated by Sept. 30. 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.



Crews at the center crevasse harvest sand from the surrounding fields Tuesday. The sand is being transported to fill the single large scour hole here.



Crews process material Wednesday at the lower crevasse to remove excess water. The soil here is poorly drained and extra effort is required to reduce the moisture content to a workable level.



Soil contaminated by the blasting agent is loaded onto a truck Thursday for removal from the project site. All contaminated soil and waste pipes were removed.