



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Sept. 14, 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:	To be determined
- Lower crevasse:	Oct. 9, 2011



### Progress

Location:	Scheduled Progress:	Actual Progress:
Upper crevasse:	41%	51%
Center crevasse:	N/A	N/A
Lower crevasse:	62%	64%

### Funding

Expended to date: (As of Sept. 8)	\$4,337,000
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**Light rain falls at the lower crevasse today. Lightning earlier in the day, and heavy rains later, temporary stopped work at this site.**

### 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**

*Rain and lightning impacted construction productivity at all locations today.*

**Upper crevasse:** A Memphis District crew consisting of 30 personnel and 20 pieces of heavy equipment are on site. All five scour holes are filled with sand to the required depth. Crews continue to apply a clay cap to the third and fourth of five scour holes. Crews continue to construct a 1,600-foot levee realignment and a 2,000-foot segment across the first two scour holes. 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 three pieces of heavy equipment were moved to this site Tuesday to begin preparing the ground for construction. The crews will initially harvest sand deposited on the surrounding lands for use as fill material. An active dredge contract was modified to include dredging at the center crevasse. The dredge contractor received the modified notice to proceed Tuesday.

**Lower crevasse:** A Vicksburg District crew consisting of 14 personnel and 16 pieces of heavy equipment is on site. The crew is nearly complete with a 2,000-foot levee segment, and is making great progress on an additional 1,500-foot segment. The crew had to temporarily stop work due to lightning and heavy rain.

**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 requested and is awaiting permits from the US Department of Transportation to remove the blasting agent. The current estimated date for permit approval and removal of the desensitized blasting agent is Sept. 30, a week later than originally estimated. Until then, the blasting agent will remain secured inside a fenced perimeter at each site.

**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 nearly-complete levee segment at the upper crevasse. Later this week, quality assurance inspectors will verify that this segment complies with our requirements for interim elevation and cross section.**



**Harvesting sand from the surrounding land at the center crevasse Tuesday. Crews were mobilized here to begin preparing the ground for construction.**



**Placing clay into the third of five scour holes Monday. Crews previously filled the holes to the water table with sand, and are now placing clay in the hole to provide a stable base for the levee and to resist seepage.**