



US Army Corps of Engineers

# OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Aug. 12, 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:	11%	11%
Center crevasse:	N/A	N/A
Lower crevasse:	15%	15%

### Funding

Expended to date:	\$1,255,000
Obligated to date:	\$4,506,000



**Repairing the levee at the upper crevasse.**

### Scope of work

During the 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. The scope of work and construction schedule will be determined following completion of an environmental assessment in mid-September.

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

Recent activities include a three-day tribal consultation and a visit by U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill. Next week, the Mississippi River Commission will hold a public meeting 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 15, aboard the M/V Mississippi at the New Madrid boat ramp as part of its annual Low-Water Inspection Trip.

**Upper crevasse:** Two Memphis District crews consisting of 27 personnel and 24 pieces of heavy equipment are on site. One crew is reshaping levee segments at the southern end of the site, while the second crew is filling scour holes at the northern end. A contract for sand delivery was awarded Aug. 3 and the contractor began delivery Aug. 4. The sand will be used to fill five scour holes at this site. A clay cap over the sand fill will prevent seepage. A request for proposal to provide haul services for clay embankment is under review. This week's priorities are filling two scour holes and shaping two levee segments. A total of 1,500 feet of levee has been built to a (Cairo) gage elevation of 51 feet at this location.

**Center crevasse:** Least terns continue to nest in the vicinity of this site. These endangered birds are expected to finish nesting and depart the area by early September. An environmental assessment (EA) is in development and is scheduled for completion by mid-September. The EA will address multiple options for interim protection at the center crevasse, as well as repair of all three crevasses to the final authorized grade.

**Lower crevasse:** A Vicksburg District crew consisting of 13 personnel and 13 pieces of heavy equipment is removing standing water, drying oversaturated soil, and reshaping the levee. This week's priority is removing excess water and leveling the ground under the levee foundation.

### 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.



**Sand is used to fill a scour hole at the upper crevasse. Clay will be placed over the sand, capping the scour hole and preventing seepage.**



**A Vicksburg-based crew prepares the ground at the lower crevasse. The excess water in the soil must be removed before it can be used in the levee.**



**Center crevasse near Seven Island Conservation Area.**