



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Aug. 26, 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:	23%	23%
Center crevasse:	N/A	N/A
Lower crevasse:	34%	34%

Funding

Expended to date:	\$2,661,000
Obligated to date:	\$7,133,500



Filling the fourth of five scour holes at the upper crevasse. This hole has been filled 67 percent of the required depth of sand and will be capped with clay.

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. 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

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 with sand at the northern end. Three scour holes are filled with sand to the required depth, and a fourth is filled to 67 percent of the required depth. Crews continue to apply a clay cap to the first scour hole. Delivery of additional clay embankment began this morning. Current priorities are filling scour holes and shaping two levee segments. A total of 1,800 feet of levee has been built to a (Cairo) gage elevation of 51 feet at this location. More than 100,700 tons of sand have been delivered here to date.

Center crevasse: A detailed elevation survey continued at this site. The environmental assessment (EA) was released for public review and comment Aug. 25, and comments are due by Sept. 6 (see link below). The EA is scheduled for completion in mid-September, and addresses 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 on site at this location. Work uncovered more oversaturated soil which required additional processing. This material will be placed into the levee when it is reduced to the proper moisture content.

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 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 not later than Sept. 21. 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 contractor sets up temporary scales in preparation for clay hauling Thursday. Delivery of clay embankment began Friday.



The levee takes shape at the lower crevasse. The river-side slope is now clearly visible.



Center crevasse near Seven Island Conservation Area. The existing levee is visible behind the tree.

The Environmental Assessment is now posted for public review and comment:

<http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public-notice/pn.asp>