



US Army Corps of Engineers

# OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Nov. 16, 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 (Phase I):	Nov. 16, 2011
- Center crevasse:	Nov. 30, 2011
- Lower crevasse:	Oct. 9, 2011



### Progress

Location:	Scheduled Progress:	Actual Progress:
Upper crevasse (Phase I):	97%	97%
Center crevasse:	65%	63%
Lower crevasse:	100%	98%



**Water pools at the upper crevasse Tuesday. More than four inches of rain has fallen since Monday night.**

### Funding

Expended to date: (As of Nov. 3)	\$11,033,000
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### 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. Phase I of 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) by Nov. 30. Phase II improves protection at the upper crevasse to 55 feet on the gage.

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**

*The District is now authorized and funded to continue improvements at the upper crevasse to 55 feet on the Cairo gage as part of Make Safe.*

*Earthwork was suspended Monday evening due to rain and lightning. Earthwork will resume when the ground has dried enough to support heavy equipment.*

**Upper crevasse:** A Corps of Engineers crew consisting of 26 personnel and 30 pieces of heavy equipment is on site here, at two nearby borrow sites, and at a maintenance facility. Survey results indicate that the entire 9,000 feet of levee is at or above a (Cairo) gage elevation of 51 feet. Before Monday night’s rain, crews had made excellent progress filling the land side of the levee back to level grade. Limited work to 55 feet has begun, with nearly 4,000 feet of foundation in place. Work will resume as the weather and ground conditions allow.

**Center crevasse:** A Corps of Engineers crew consisting of 27 personnel and 20 pieces of heavy equipment is on site here and at a nearby clay borrow site. Four additional 25-ton off-road dump trucks were delivered last week, bringing the total number of trucks to eight. The 10-man night shift moved here Nov. 11. Work will resume as the weather and ground conditions allow.

**Lower crevasse:** Interim repairs are complete and Corps crews have demobilized from the site. The two percent of work remaining is seeding the levee with grass to prevent erosion.

**Blasting agent removal:** A contractor is making final preparations for shipping the desensitized blasting agent to a disposal site in central Illinois. The need for a packaging reconfiguration has temporarily delayed shipment.

**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 deliver and spread clay Monday at the center crevasse.**



**The center crevasse scour hole as seen from the air Oct. 25. The dredge lowa is visible in the channel at top right. (Photo by Brad Hahn, courtesy of Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company)**



**Crews deliver and spread clay Sunday at the center crevasse.**