



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE

Nov. 21, 2011

Birds Point - New Madrid Floodway  
Missouri

New Madrid Project Office

Memphis District

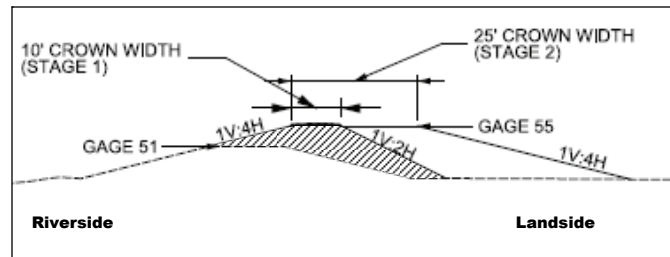
## Schedule

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 (to 51 feet):	Nov. 16, 2011
- Upper crevasse (to 55 feet):	Jan. 31, 2012
- Center crevasse:	Nov. 30, 2011
- Lower crevasse:	Oct. 9, 2011



## Progress

Location:	Scheduled Progress:	Actual Progress:
Upper crevasse (to 51 feet):	100%	99%
Upper crevasse (to 55 feet):	2%	15%
Center crevasse:	74%	69%
Lower crevasse:	100%	98%



The hatched area is the modified section of the upper crevasse (Birds Point) levee. The modified section will be constructed as weather permits and will provide protection to 55 feet on the Cairo gage. The full levee section will be constructed Spring 2012 and will provide additional stability and durability to the levee.

## Funding

Expended to date: (As of Nov. 17)	\$13,763,000
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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 Sunday morning due to heavy rain.*

**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. Crews continued filling the land side of the levee back to level grade until rain suspended earthwork Sunday morning. Limited work to build the 55-foot levee has begun, with nearly 4,000 feet of foundation in place. Focus now is to complete the landside clay bed so assets can then be shifted fully to constructing the higher 55-foot levee.

**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. The District began running a 10-man night shift Nov. 11. Crews will resume levee reconstruction to close the 800-foot gap as the weather permits.

**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 to reconfigure the packaging 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 Nov. 18 at the center crevasse to begin levee construction.**



**The center crevasse scour hole as seen from the air Oct. 25 during dredging. The area to the right of the levee was filled in after this photo was taken. (Photo by Brad Hahn, courtesy of Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company)**



**Crews deliver and spread clay Nov. 18 at the center crevasse to begin levee reconstruction.**