



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE

Nov. 4, 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):	88%	95%
Center crevasse:	53%	56%
Lower crevasse:	100%	98%

Funding

Expended to date:	\$11,033,000
(As of Nov. 3)	



Crews spread clay landside of the levee at the upper crevasse Wednesday.

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 Thursday due to rain. Off-road hauling resumed today, but earthwork is not expected to resume until Saturday.

Upper crevasse: A Corps of Engineers crew consisting of 29 personnel and 24 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 suspended earthwork because of oversaturated soil on site from the recent rain. The District, with assistance from Levee District No. 3 of Mississippi County, Missouri, acquired additional borrow material at Birds Point. The crew began utilizing this borrow site earlier this week, greatly increasing production.

Center crevasse: A Corps of Engineers crew consisting of 14 personnel and 18 pieces of heavy equipment is on site here and at a nearby clay borrow site. The crew suspended clay placement until the ground has dried. The scour hole is filled with sand. The District acquired additional borrow material near Big Oak State Park. Use of this material will improve construction productivity greatly and reduce transportation costs. The crew is currently mobilizing to the borrow site.

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: Desensitized blasting agent is packaged and awaiting shipment. A contractor is making final preparations for shipping before removing the material to a disposal site in central Illinois.

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.



Desensitized blasting agent awaits transport at the upper crevasse. The material will be transported to a disposal site in Illinois.



Crews spread and compact clay at the center crevasse Wednesday. The excavator is removing asphalt.



The scour hole at the center crevasse is filled with sand. Dredging ended Monday morning.