



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Nov. 9, 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):	91%	96%
Center crevasse:	57%	58%
Lower crevasse:	100%	98%



**Crews spread clay landside of the levee at the upper crevasse Tuesday.**

## 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 Tuesday night due to rain. Current focus is on maintaining haul roads and equipment. Limited hauling with off-road trucks is expected to resume by Thursday.*

**Upper crevasse:** A Corps of Engineers crew consisting of 36 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. The District began a night shift Saturday to maximize production when the weather is favorable. The addition of the night shift will allow the District to transport clay around the clock, reducing the risk of weather delays to completion of the 55-foot levee. Both day and night shifts will resume as the weather and ground conditions allow.

**Center crevasse:** A Corps of Engineers crew consisting of 17 personnel and 16 pieces of heavy equipment is on site here and at a nearby clay borrow site. The crew opened a new borrow site near Big Oak State Park Sunday. Use of this material will improve construction productivity greatly and reduce transportation costs. Four additional 25-ton off-road dump trucks are scheduled for delivery later this week, bringing the total number of trucks to eight.

**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. 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 disk and compact clay after it is placed in the scour hole at the center crevasse Tuesday.**



**An excavator operator loads an off-road dump truck Monday night with clay that will fill the land-side berm. Each off-road truck can carry up to 25 tons of clay. The District began night operations Saturday.**



**Crews load clay at a newly-acquired borrow site Monday. The clay is bound for the scour hole at the center crevasse.**