



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Sept. 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:	Nov. 30, 2011
- Lower crevasse:	Oct. 9, 2011



Progress

Location:	Scheduled Progress:	Actual Progress:
Upper crevasse:	54%	60%
Center crevasse:	12%	12%
Lower crevasse:	75%	76%

Funding

Expended to date: (As of Sept. 22)	\$5,738,000
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Monday morning was wet and muddy at the upper crevasse. Afternoon sun helped to dry the ground, but not yet enough to support heavy equipment.

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. 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

A rental contract for off-road dump trucks remains under protest. The trucks cannot be used pending a determination by the Government Accountability Office. This protest does not prevent use of trucks rented on a separate concurrent contract, or use of Corps-owned trucks. Rain also limited production.

Upper crevasse: A Memphis District crew consisting of 22 personnel and 16 pieces of heavy equipment is on site. All five scour holes are filled with sand to the required depth. Rain stopped earthwork over the weekend, but will resume Tuesday, weather permitting. Nearly 4,000 feet of levee is awaiting inspection. A total of 1,800 feet of levee have been built to a (Cairo) gage elevation of 51 feet at this location.

Center crevasse: A Memphis District crew consisting of seven personnel and nine pieces of heavy equipment is preparing the ground for construction at this site. The crew continued harvesting sand for use as fill material. The dredge contractor is mobilizing shore assets and the dredge itself is expected to arrive by Wednesday.

Lower crevasse: A Vicksburg District crew consisting of 14 personnel and 16 pieces of heavy equipment is on site. A 2,000-foot levee segment is ready for inspection. The crew will resume disking and drying material Tuesday, as well as constructing a 1,500-foot long levee segment.

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 and is awaiting permits from the US Department of Transportation to remove the blasting agent, estimated by Sept. 30. The blasting agent will remain secured inside a fenced perimeter at each site until removed.

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.



Sand begins to fill the scour hole at the center crevasse Monday. The sand was harvested from the surrounding fields and hauled to the scour hole.



A Vicksburg crew processes material Sept. 21 at the lower crevasse to remove excess water. The soil here is poorly drained and extra effort is required to reduce the moisture content to a workable level. The crew will resume processing material Tuesday.



A welder for the dredge contractor joins pipe Monday at the center crevasse. When fully assembled, the pipeline will transport river sand more than a mile to fill the scour hole.