



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE

Sept. 28, 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:	56%	62%
Center crevasse:	17%	17%
Lower crevasse:	77%	77%

Funding

Expended to date:	\$5,738,000
(As of Sept. 22)	



Work resumed this morning at the upper crevasse. Crews are now filling the last of five scour holes at this location with clay.

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A protest to a rental contract for three off-road dump trucks was withdrawn Tuesday. The trucks can be utilized again, increasing production. All locations were at full production today following the rain.

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. Crews are currently filling the final of five scour holes. 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 resumed disking and drying material Tuesday, and will resume construction of a 1,500-foot long levee segment when the foundation has dried further.

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 received one of two required permits from the US Department of Transportation. Reception of the second permit and removal of the blasting agent is now estimated for mid-October. 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.



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 resumed processing material Tuesday.



Loading sand at the center crevasse today. The sand is being used to fill the scour hole at the center crevasse.



Memphis District Commander Col. Vernie Reichling met with the Vicksburg crew at the lower crevasse today. He thanked them for their hard work and commended them for their outstanding safety record.