



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Sept. 30, 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:	57%	65%
Center crevasse:	20%	20%
Lower crevasse:	78%	78%

##### Funding

Expended to date: (As of Sept. 29)	\$6,868,000
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Crews fill the last of five scour holes with clay 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. 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**

**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, as well as preparing the levee foundation over the top of two previously-filled 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 ten 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 currently constructing a pipeline that will be used to pump sand from the Mississippi River to the scour hole. The dredge arrived today and dredging is scheduled to begin in early October.

**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 construction of a 1,500-foot long levee segment Thursday, and continues to process material and prepare the foundation for the remaining 1,200 feet of levee at this site.

**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. Receipt 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.



Crews fill the scour hole at the center crevasse with sand Thursday. Sand is being harvested off of the surrounding fields for use as fill material.



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.



The dredge contractor installs pipeline Thursday in preparation for pumping sand from the river into the scour hole at the center crevasse. Dredging is scheduled to begin in early October.