



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

# MAKE SAFE AND RESTORE PROJECT UPDATE March 16, 2012

**Birds Point - New Madrid Floodway  
Missouri**

**New Madrid Project Office**

**Memphis District**

## Schedule

### Operation Make Safe:

- Began construction: June 16, 2011
- Make Safe levee completion:
  - Upper crevasse (to 51 feet): Oct. 28, 2011
  - \*\*With HESCOs (to 55 feet): Dec. 13, 2011
  - Center crevasse (to 55 feet): Dec. 3, 2011
  - Lower crevasse (to 51 feet): Oct. 9, 2011

### Operation Restore:

- Design authorized to begin: Nov. 28, 2011
- Begin construction: Spring 2012
- Complete construction: Winter 2012



## Progress

Location:	Scheduled Progress:	Actual Progress:
Make Safe:	100%	100%
Restore:		
- Upper crevasse:	TBD	TBD
- Center crevasse:	TBD	TBD
- Lower crevasse:	TBD	TBD

## Funding

Expended to date: \$19,770,000  
(As of March 15)



**Plastic sheeting to protect the levee and HESCO barriers is shown in this March 1 view.**

## 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. "Operation Make Safe" 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, 2011. "Make Safe" was later expanded to improve protection at the upper crevasse to 55 feet on the gage, which was achieved in December 2011 using HESCO barriers. "Operation Restore" will repair all three crevasses back to pre-operational levels of protection of 62.5 feet on the Cairo gage, and will include installation of an activation method.

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. Restore will include seepage control measures.

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. Restore will include seepage control measures.

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. No seepage control measures are necessary here.

### Current Progress

*The project is in maintenance status for the winter. Scheduled maintenance to repair access roads began Jan. 25 and was completed March 2. Operation Restore is now funded. Earthwork to further expand the levee and reconstruct it to the full authorized level of protection will resume when field conditions allow. Plans and specifications are in development. Contracting and construction schedules are under review.*

*A small crew is currently in the Floodway to repair wind-damaged plastic. They will return to Memphis when complete with the repairs.*

**Upper crevasse:** The crew has completed permanent levee repairs to a (Cairo) gage elevation of 51 feet as of Oct. 28, and temporary protection with HESCO barriers to 55 feet as of Dec. 13. Remaining earthwork to complete the restoration of the clay bed on the landside of the levee as well as seeding the levee with grass, will be rolled over to Restore.

**Center crevasse:** Interim repairs were completed Dec. 3. Remaining earthwork to thicken the landside clay bed to better prevent against seepage, as well as seeding the levee with grass, will be rolled over to Restore.

**Lower crevasse:** Interim repairs were completed Oct. 10 and Corps crews have demobilized from the site. Seeding the levee with grass to prevent erosion will be rolled over to Restore.



**A tractor-trailer transporting desensitized blasting agent leaves the upper crevasse March 8. All blasting agent has now been removed from the Floodway and has been transferred to a disposal site in Illinois.**



**The repair team completed the center crevasse access road in late February. The road provides all-weather access to the levee. March 15 photo.**



**A March 1 view of the repaired levee at the center crevasse. The access road is visible at right.**

### Links

Memphis District webpage (archived updates):  
<http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/>

National Weather Service Lower Mississippi River  
 Forecast Center webpage (stage forecasts):  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=lmrfc-mississippiandohioriverforecast>