



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Feb. 17, 2012

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 (to 51 feet):	Nov. 16, 2011
- Upper crevasse (to 55 feet):	To be determined
- Center crevasse:	Nov. 30, 2011
- Lower crevasse:	Oct. 9, 2011



Progress

Location:	Scheduled Progress:	Actual Progress:
Upper crevasse (to 51 feet):	100%	99%
Upper crevasse (to 55 feet):	N/A	15%
Center crevasse:	100%	90%
Lower crevasse:	100%	98%

Funding

Expended to date: (As of Feb. 16)	\$19,520,000
--------------------------------------	--------------



The District's repair team places rock at the center crevasse Wednesday to stabilize the roadway.

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 project is in maintenance status for the winter. Operation Restore is now funded. Earthwork to further expand the levee and reconstruct it to the full authorized level of protection will resume after spring highwater recedes.

An eight-man team arrived Jan. 25 to repair roads at the upper and center crevasses. The team is currently performing road maintenance at the center crevasse.

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. A small amount of earthwork remains to complete the restoration of the clay bed on the landside of the levee, as well as seeding the levee with grass.

Center crevasse: Interim repairs were completed Dec. 3. The 10% of work remaining is thickening the landside clay bed to better prevent against seepage, as well as seeding the levee with grass.

Lower crevasse: Interim repairs were completed Oct. 10 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: The need to reconfigure the packaging has temporarily delayed shipment of the desensitized blasting agent. A request for a special permit from USDOT is pending.

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. Restore has been funded through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act. Plans and specifications are in development. Contracting and construction schedules are under review. Earthwork is planned to resume this spring as soon as field conditions allow.



The team performs road maintenance at the center crevasse Feb. 9. Here, the team places rock to stabilize the eastern access road.



The repair team completed repairs to the plastic at the upper crevasse Feb. 2. The team also added additional sandbags to better hold the plastic in place.



River water topped out at less than one foot against the levee at the center crevasse Feb. 3 before receding.