



US Army Corps
of Engineers

OPERATION MAKE SAFE PROJECT UPDATE Jan. 26, 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%



A crew fills HESCO barriers at the upper crevasse Dec. 11. The barriers are a temporary measure to raise the level of protection at Birds Point from 51 to 55 feet on the Cairo gage. Permanent repairs to the levee will resume after spring highwater recedes.

Funding

Expended to date: (As of Jan. 26)	\$19,188,000
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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. Earthwork to further expand the levee will resume after spring highwater recedes.

An eight-man crew arrived Wednesday to repair roads at the upper and center crevasses. The first priority, though, is to repair plastic sheeting that was damaged during Sunday night's severe thunderstorm.

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. The construction schedule is contingent on the availability of funding.



Maj. Gen. John Peabody, Mississippi Valley Division Commander, discusses the Floodway with levee officials and area residents in Charleston, Mo., Dec. 15.



Crews cover the newly-constructed levee segment at the center crevasse with heavy plastic sheeting Dec. 6. The plastic sheeting will help protect the levee against erosion caused by wave action and rainfall. This view looks east along the levee.



HESCO barriers span the length of the upper crevasse Dec. 15. The plastic sheeting protects against erosion and provides a water-resistant barrier over the HESCOs.