**Location:** The project area is located in the Mississippi River flood plain of Madison County, Illinois, upstream of the city of East St. Louis. An urban design levee, authorized in 1938 and constructed in the 1950s, protects the area.

**Description:** The project includes replacing 163 of 170 existing relief wells and installing 60 new relief wells as a design deficiency correction under the existing project authorization. The recommended plan to correct deficiencies of underseepage controls identified in the Limited Reevaluation Report includes construction of new relief wells, seepage berms, and cutoff walls.

**Issues:** Levee system will have a significant risk of failure during high water events unless underseepage design deficiency and through-seepage corrections are made. The system currently does not provide the authorized level of protection, which is equivalent to 54’ on the St. Louis Mississippi River gage (approximately a 500-year event) due to aged infrastructure and uncontrolled underseepage. Rehabilitation of aged infrastructure is nearing completion. Design deficiency corrections are underway to address uncontrolled underseepage. The sponsor, Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council (FPD), is performing work to improve the levee to 1.0 percent chance of exceedance to attain 100-year level of protection and maintain FEMA accreditation. Approximately $14 million of federal project work is being self constructed by the sponsor to aid in their accreditation efforts. The FPD continues to request that the Corps mandate the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA) for construction contracts in the geographic area. MVS determined the project solicitation will provide for voluntary submissions of a PLA under a Best Value Lowest Price Technically Acceptable acquisition strategy. Before making a final decision on initiating design deficiency construction, the FPD awaits a response from their Congressional Delegation to their request to override MVS’ decision. Initiation of design deficiency construction is dependent on resolution of the use of a PLA. MVS will identify a collaborative way forward given the sponsor’s PLA demands. WRRDA 2014 includes a provision providing WIK credit eligibility for the sponsor. The sponsor is exploring self designing and constructing significant portions of the federal project to obtain WIK credit toward their cost share. FY16 capability could increase significantly (up to $11M) upon acceptance of the Integral Determination Report (IDR).

**Importance:** The Wood River Levee System protects a population of approximately 20,000 people in 5 towns; a high concentration of industry such as petrochemical infrastructure, steel manufacturing, and ammunitions production; and 12,700 acres of bottomland. In addition, the system is part of the containment feature of the Melvin Price Lock and Dam.

**Risk:** Without the design deficiency, the levee is in danger of failing due to underseepage during flood events.

**Consequence:** Failure of the levee system could cause disruption to Mississippi River navigation and major transportation routes, environmental contamination from the inundation of industrial facilities, and loss of life.

**Activities for FY 15:** Funds are being used to continue design of two cutoff walls to control underseepage, section 408 observation, prepare an (IDR), prepare to award underseepage corrections contract, and close out the Reconstruction project.

**Acquisition Strategy:** Lowest Priced Technically Acceptable (LPTA) strategy with voluntary inclusion of a PLA. Contract award is dependent on resolution of the PLA issue and adequate project funding.

**Amount That Could Be Used in FY 16:** Carryover and budgeted funds ($50K) will be used to conduct basic project management activities and perform Section 408 observation.

**Project Sponsor/Customer:** Wood River Drainage and Levee District and FPD.

**Congressional Interest:** Senate: Durbin (IL) and Kirk (IL) House: Bost (IL-12), Shimkus (IL-15) and Davis (IL-13).