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of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

News Release

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REVISED RIVER FLOOD LEVELS RELEASED

ROCK ISLAND, ILL. – New flood profiles for portions of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers were released today. These profiles will better assist communities in preparing for flood events to prevent loss of life and property damage. The new profiles will also assist in improving floodplain management by advancing the understanding of local, regional, and systemic hydrology and hydraulics of our river system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Upper Mississippi, Lower Missouri, and Illinois Rivers System Flow Frequency Study Final Report updates the 100-year flood profiles for these river systems.

The 100-year flood profiles provide river levels that have a one-percent chance of occurring during any given year.

The approximate rate of change from the of old and new 100-year (1% chance) flood profiles was as follows:

- For the upper portion of the upper Mississippi, flood levels were lowered by one foot or remained the same;
- For the lower portion of the Upper Mississippi, flood levels varied in range from lowering 1.5 feet to raising nearly two feet;
- On the Illinois River, flood level changes varied from lowering by one foot to raising two feet;

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Flood Levels Revised-2/2/2

- For the upper Missouri River, flood level changes varied from lowering by three feet to raising four feet; and,
- On the lower Missouri River, flood levels remained the same or raised as much as four feet.

The study area included the Upper Mississippi from just below St. Paul, Minn., to Cairo, Ill., the Illinois River from its confluence with the Mississippi at Grafton, Ill., to Lockport Lock and Dam at Lockport, Ill., and the Missouri River from its confluence with the Mississippi at St. Louis, Mo., to Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, SD.

Flood profiles for the Upper Mississippi River were first developed in 1966. In 1971, impacts of tributary reservoirs were incorporated into the 1966 profiles. In 1979 a new set of flood profiles was published. To date, these profiles have been the official flood profiles for management of the floodplains and design of flood control projects along the Upper Mississippi River. Missouri River profiles date to the mid-1960's. In 1997, the Secretary of the Army for Civil Works directed the Corps of Engineers to conduct a study to review, update, and revise, as appropriate, the existing flood frequency data for the study area. The study started in October 1997.

To complete the study, the Corps teamed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the Bureau of Reclamation; the National Weather Service; the U.S. Geological Survey; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; the Tennessee Valley Authority; the states of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin; and interested private individuals who formed a public involvement group with direct access to the study team. In addition, technical advisory groups consisting of world-renowned experts were formed to help address some of the complex issues surrounding the study.

Study findings will also be used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to update the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

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Flood Levels Revised-3/3/3

To view a comparison of old and new 100-year flood profiles at specific locations on the rivers, visit the Flow Frequency website at

www.mvr.usace.army.mil/pdw/pdf/FlowFrequency/flowfreq.htm and view pages 19-23 of the main report.

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