



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

News Release

Release No. 19-06

Contact: Public Affairs Office
314-331-8002/8068

For Release: **IMMEDIATE** – September 12, 2006

1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

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Second Phase of Dredging Operations Ongoing Near Chain of Rocks Canal Extracted Sand will be used in Berm Construction

Approximately 150,000 cubic yards of river bottom sand will be dredged from the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers through the end of September. The dredged material is being used to construct an 8 acre seepage berm and as stockpile material for additional future berm construction along the east side of the Chain of Rocks Canal, between Chouteau Slough and the Cahokia Diversion Canal in Granite City, Ill.

This continues work the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, and Lakeshore Engineering Services, Inc., of Detroit, Michigan, started in February 2006. Work was suspended April 8 to meet federally-regulated environmental restrictions barring dredging operations between April 12 and June 30, the spawning period for the endangered pallid sturgeon.

Prior to suspending operations, approximately 250,000 cubic yards of material was successfully collected, and a 22 acre seepage berm, varying from two to eight feet thick, was completed. The berm will help counteract underseepage issues that arise during a flood and can degrade a levee's foundation.

Dredging operations will be conducted for approximately three weeks.

"Residents may observe pools of water landside of the levee just between Interstate 270 and Chouteau Slough on Chouteau Place Road and think there are flooding issues," said Susan Wilson, project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers. "We want to let residents know what we are doing and why. This berm construction will ensure residents have adequate and dependable flood protection."

Once the sand is extracted from the water, the water will be returned to the canal at the quality in which it was taken from the river. Lakeshore Engineering is the prime contractor and L.W. Matteson of Burlington, Iowa is the dredging sub-contractor.

This construction is part of the ongoing Chain of Rocks Deficiency Project to correct design deficiencies and assure that the Chain of Rocks levee will withstand a future 500-year flood event. The floods of 1993 and 1995 illustrated opportunities to improve the Chain of Rocks Levee along the canal. Sand boils and quicksand-like conditions developed along portions of the levee, indicating areas that would benefit from additional protection. The deficiency correction project is composed of constructing seepage berms and relief wells, which will serve to better control the underseepage problems. Additionally, a new pump station is planned near Chouteau Slough to better handle interior drainage. The Army Corps of Engineers expects to build additional berms next year.

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Photo Caption: Approximately 150,000 cubic yards of river bottom sand is being dredged from the Mississippi and Missouri rivers for use in seepage berm construction. Here a contract dredge works near the confluence of the two rivers. The collected material is being piped over three miles and placed on the east side of the Chain of Rocks Canal, between Chouteau Slough and the Cahokia Diversion Canal in Granite City, Ill.



Photo Caption: Dredged river bottom sand is discharged from a pipe and maneuvered into place by two bulldozers. A special vibratory roller waits to compact the sand and complete the material placement.