



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

Press Release

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Contact: Alan Dooley, 314-331-8002
Nicole Dalrymple, 314-331-8068

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1222 Spruce Street, Saint Louis, Missouri, 63103-2833

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers inventorying nation's levees

St. Louis – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) St. Louis District is one of five pilot districts collecting and entering Corps program levee geospatial information system data (GIS) into the National Levee Inventory Database. The geospatial information provides additional detail that better describes Corps levees, including elevation and width; features such as pump stations, gravity drains and relief wells; as well as crossings and closures.

The five Corps Districts (St. Louis; Louisville, Ky.; Portland, Ore.; Sacramento, Calif.; and Little Rock, Ark.) have contracted with the engineering consulting firm PBS&J of Tampa, Florida to collect the data for the database. Within the St. Louis District the work has been subcontracted to EDSI and J.T. Blankenship, who are working to capture data for 503 miles of levees involving 46 levee districts.

Survey crews started work in April and have already collected some initial data for levees along the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers. Survey field work is complete on four of the 46 levee districts.

The National Levee Inventory Database is an integral part of the Levee Safety Program authorized and funded by Congress in fiscal year 2006.

The Corps inspects some 2,000 levee units, or 13,000 miles in its program on a bi-annual basis and includes projects built, operated and maintained by the Corps; projects built by the Corps but transferred to a local owner to operate and maintain; and non-federal projects built, operated and maintained by a local owner. The latter two project categories, if properly maintained and operated by the local owner, are eligible for federal rehabilitation assistance if damaged by a flood event.

The National Levee Inventory Database already contains Corps program project administrative information, such as project name, sponsor information and recent maintenance inspection results for the 2,000 projects in its program. The geospatial information is the next step in building a national database on Corps program projects. The database is dynamic, updated regularly and provides up-to-date information about these important flood damage reduction systems.

National Levee Safety Program Fact sheet Available Online:

<http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/releases/leveesafetyfactsheet.pdf>

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