



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

News Release

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Public Affairs Office: 314-331-8002 / 8095 / 8068
Alan Dooley Cell: 618-719-9039/ Home: 618-939-5985

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1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 / www.mvs.usace.army.mil

Corps of Engineers in St. Louis taking precautionary flood fight steps along Chain of Rocks Canal Levee

Sand is being moved and water is being ponded on the east, or protected side of the Chain of Rocks Levee in Illinois. Corps authorities say this is not being done because of imminent flooding threats, but rather is a prudent precaution in the area where more permanent flood risk reduction work is ongoing. The work is being undertaken to reduce possibilities of water under seepage along the levee and to reduce any risks to the public.

The water being ponded or accumulated, was originally pumped inside the levee during the recent March high water event and has been increased by accumulated rainfall since then. Keeping it inside the levee is part of an effort to reduce possibilities of sand boils developing.

Corps officials emphasize that the accumulated water is not a threat to public safety and property. Rather, it is visible evidence of flood fighting going on in the area.

The area protected by the Chain of Rocks Levee was subject to numerous sand boils during the 1993 flood. Sand boils occur when water seeps under an earthen levee with enough force to carry soil from under the foundation, to the surface. It may appear as growing bubbles of sand and water and can cause damage to the levee if it is left unchecked. Water seepage without soil transfer is expected and levees are designed to accommodate it.

Corps officials say the sand being moved and water ponded will add weight to the ground inside of the levee. This in effect, “squeezes” the ground and slows any seepage that may occur.

Both the bike trail and part of Chouteau Place Road will be closed during the work due to the presence of several pieces of large earthmoving machinery. Closing these thoroughfares has been coordinated with local officials and bike trail personnel and both will be marked for safety.

Corps flood flight personnel will continue to coordinate activities with local officials and to include them in decision making. This work is part of the overall St. Louis Districts’ work to help communities fight flooding that is reaching southward on the Mississippi River into the District.

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