



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

# News Release

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1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 / [www.mvs.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil)

## **Gravity drain malfunctions in Prairie du Rocher Levee District**

St. Louis, Mo. – A gravity drain gate has apparently partly given way in the Prairie du Rocher Drainage and Levee District in Randolph County, Ill. The gate is in a 6-foot diameter drain pipe structure that normally allows rain water to flow from the inland side of the levee. The gate in the drain was closed to keep high water from flowing from the Mississippi River at the time.

Prairie du Rocher District employees have already taken first steps to close the drain until the river goes down enough to permit permanent repair. They placed two 4 by 10-foot concrete bridge pavement sections side-by-side on the inside end of the drain. While water under pressure from the river is continuing to spray out of the closed pipe, additional steps are being taken. Corps of Engineers geotechnical and flood fighting experts are on scene with Levee District.

It is planned to build a temporary rock ring around the land side of the drain pipe to trap incoming water and allow it to build up until the water pressure equalizes and stops the flow.

Senior Corps of Engineers geotechnical personnel indicate this kind of issue is not unusual and is a manageable problem. These Corps representatives are expressing confidence in the Levee District's personnel and are standing by to provide any technical assistance that may be required.

The Prairie du Rocher Levee provides a 200-year level of protection and has passed recent inspections of its condition, maintenance and operating condition. It is otherwise to be functioning as designed during the current regional flooding.

## **Informational Sites**

Updated information about the Mississippi River is available on the web by visiting the Corps' website at [www.rivergages.com](http://www.rivergages.com). This web site includes links to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Weather Service websites that track Mississippi River flow and projected rainfall amounts.

### **St. Louis District Flood Fight Page:**

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/floodfight/>

### **Rock Island District Flood Fight Information:**

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/MidwestFlooding2008/Home.htm>

### **Graphic of Lock Locations:**

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/9FootStaircase.gif>

### **Graphic of Mississippi River 9-foot Staircase:**

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/LockLocationMap.pdf>

### **U.S. Coast Guard**

<http://www.uscgstormwatch.com>

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