



AUTHORIZATION:

Resolution of the Committee on
Transportation and Infrastructure,
U.S. House of Representatives,
21 June 2000



Location and Description:

The authorized study area is comprised of 3,011 square miles located in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Jefferson County in Missouri and St. Clair, Madison, and Monroe Counties in Illinois. A 2004 reconnaissance study investigated problems and opportunities for flood damage reduction, aquatic habitat restoration, and harbor safety issues in the entire project area. The study recommended proceeding with the St. Louis North Riverfront feasibility study. It also identified a potential feasibility study for the Meramec River, pending completion of a reconnaissance report addendum. This addendum was initiated in 2011 and focused on the Meramec River Basin within St. Louis and Jefferson Counties, Missouri. This recon report focused on a declining aquatic environment adversely affected by habitat fragmentation and excessive sedimentation. Several mill dams prevent upstream migration of fish from the Meramec into the upper portions of the Big river. Additionally, the Big River is a main tributary to the Meramec and is listed as impaired with over 55 river miles adversely affected by sediment containing cadmium, lead, and zinc. The EPA is actively working on a superfund site at the mine tailings piles point sources. The issue of downstream transport of sediments that have escaped tailings piles remains paramount and unaddressed.