



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

# Information Paper

## Melvin Price Lock and Dam, IL & MO

Internal Revenue Code of 1954, Title I – Replacement of Locks & Dam 26; Water Resources Development Acts (WRDAs) of 1986, 1990, 1992, and 1996; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, PL 106-554.

### Construction (Navigation)

**Location:** Melvin Price Lock and Dam is located in Madison County, Illinois, and St. Charles County, Missouri, at approximately mile 200.8 above the mouth of the Ohio River.

**Description:** The project includes one 1,200-foot lock; one 600-foot lock (authorized separately); a dam with nine tainter gates; an overflow dike; removal of most of the original structure; relocation/abandonment of the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge; and a visitor center. Mitigation lands were provided to compensate for wildlife losses due to creation of a new pool for the two-mile distance downstream of the original structure. Recreation facilities continue to be cost-shared with the City of Alton, Illinois, consistent with applicable authorizations.

**Status:** Uncontrolled underseepage, with the conveyance of some soils material, is occurring during normal operating conditions under the Wood River Levee (WRL) adjacent to the upper pool of Melvin Price Locks and Dam. Current conditions place the WRL at an unacceptable level of risk.

A limited reevaluation report (LRR) was approved in 2012 that recommended permanent underseepage controls. Design was initiated and subsurface exploration revealed that the identified solution would not be feasible. A supplemental report, approved 28 August 2017, incorporates risk assessment guidelines per ER 1110-2-1156 and follows Flood Risk Management/Levee Safety regulations. Interim risk reduction measures (IRRM) are in place to provide levee stability, but are very costly to operate.

**Importance:** The Melvin Price Locks and Dam performs over 6,000 lockages each year for vessels carrying goods on the Upper Mississippi River between St. Louis and St. Paul and Chicago.

**Risk:** The greatest risk of failure for the WRL is due to backward erosion piping or overtopping which would result in potential loss of life and economic damages.

**Consequence:** Failure of the levee system could cause disruption to major transportation routes, structural damage, and environmental contamination from the inundation of industrial facilities, and loss of life.



*Melvin Price Locks and Dam*

**Activities for FY 20:** Funds are being used to complete the Reach 1 design and real estate acquisitions; and to initiate design of Reach 2. Carryover funds are being used to monitor the IRRM as necessary.

**Acquisition Strategy:** No contracts are planned for the current fiscal year.

**Activities after FY20:** Continue design and award a construction contract for permanent deficiency corrections; provide reimbursement to the City of Alton for recreation features, and to execute and monitor the IRRM, as needed.

**Project Partner:** City of Alton, Illinois, will cost-share the recreation facilities (50/50).

**Congressional Interest:** Senate: Durbin and Duckworth (IL) House: Bost (IL-12), Shimkus (IL-15) and Davis (IL-13).

Phase	FY 20 Allocation
Construction	\$11,876,000