



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District

Information Paper

MVS PL 84-99 Rehabilitation Assistance

Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies

Location: The St. Louis District provides Flood Control emergency support to 90 levee systems (totaling 750 miles in length) constructed to protect 575,000 acres of economic and agricultural interests within its boundaries. The District's boundaries include 300 miles of the Mississippi River, 80 miles of the Illinois River, 36 miles of the Kaskaskia River, several tributary rivers, and dozens of other small streams.

Description: Exceptional snowfall accumulation in the northern parts of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois River watersheds, immediately followed by elevated levels of rainfall led to historic flooding. For the period of October 2018–January 2019 there was average to slightly above average precipitation in the St. Louis District region; however, the Mississippi and Missouri watersheds to the north and west experienced above average precipitation, mostly in the form of snow. A large spring thaw, immediately followed by rounds of heavy rainfall, set the stage for historic flooding. Multiple events brought significant precipitation across the region from March through June. Most area rivers quickly went up into flood stage by mid-March including the Mississippi River. The end of May marked the sixth consecutive month with above average precipitation. Spring 2019 was within the top four wettest spring seasons in recorded history, with May 2019 ranking as the third wettest May. This weather pattern resulted the longest continuous flood stage recorded at the St. Louis gage at 126 days.

Issues: The event primarily affected the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois Rivers and tributaries within the St. Louis District. All told, 24 levees overtopped and 13 of those levees breached during this event. All five locks in the District were closed for periods of time during this flood event. Multiple federal and state disaster proclamations were issued for flood affected areas in the aftermath of this event.

Importance: All issues need to be addressed if levees are expected to perform as designed in the next flood event. Damages that reduce the level of protection (i.e. levee breaches) and any other damages that significantly compromise the levee's integrity (i.e. gravity drain repairs, slides) are given the highest priority. All aspects of work related to rehabilitation of damaged FCWs (Flood Control Works) are to be addressed using all available methods of urgency, exigency, and expediency, consistent with providing responsive, cost effective assistance.

Risk: Failure to repair or restore the FCW will result in increased flood risk to residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural properties.



Start of breach repair at Elsberry MO, March 2020.

Consequence: If no repairs are made under PL 84-99 authority or funding sources, the affected areas would remain unprotected during high water events, as exhibited in the May 2017 high water event. The population and industries would be considered at high risk to life and property.

Activities for FY21: All levee breaches have been fully repaired, with the exception of the Nutwood Levee breach, which is still under construction but currently protected by a temporary berm that provides a 20-year level of protection. Erosion and slide repairs are still ongoing on a number of levee systems. Three contracts were awarded in January, and five more contract awards are expected this spring.

Acquisition Strategy: MVS recently awarded a multiple award task-order contract (MATOC) to 11 contractors. This 5-year contract will allow the St. Louis District to quickly compete and award future levee repair projects among these 11 contractors. This is an important acquisition tool that will reduce solicitation and negotiation times, help to get boots on the ground as quickly as possible after a flood event, and improve the overall effectiveness of our recovery program.

Project Sponsor/Customer: Rehabilitation Assistance is limited to Federal and non-Federal FCWs that are in an Active status in the RIP at the time of the storm or flood event and which are damaged by floods.

Congressional Interest: Senators Durbin (IL), Duckworth (IL), Blunt (MO), Hawley (MO), Representatives Bost (IL-12), Davis (IL-13), Miller (IL-15), LaHood (IL-18), Luetkemeyer (MO-3), Wagner (MO-2), and Smith (MO-8)