



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

Information Paper

Southwest Illinois Levee Systems

Section 216 of Flood Control Act (FCA) of 1970 (Public Law (PL) 91-611)

Investigations (FRM)

Location: Southwest Illinois Levee Systems are made up of 12 levee systems, which include 17 distinct levee districts. The levees are generally located between the communities of Alton and Gale, Illinois.

Description: Risk assessments completed for all levee systems have identified three major risk driving potential failure modes, including slope stability, underseepage and internal erosion, and overtopping with breach. In the past, these risk drivers have been considered in individual studies and projects that address a single problem, usually focusing on a single system, resulting in a piece-meal approach to problems occurring throughout this 157 mile long reach of Mississippi River. This piece-meal approach has prevented USACE from having a complete understanding of the full nature and scope of common problems, finding and realizing efficiencies in common analyses, and effectively prioritizing investments in flood-risk reduction in this reach.

Status: A feasibility study is needed to comprehensively evaluate system-wide risks, recommend risk-reduction actions where appropriate, and prioritize those actions.

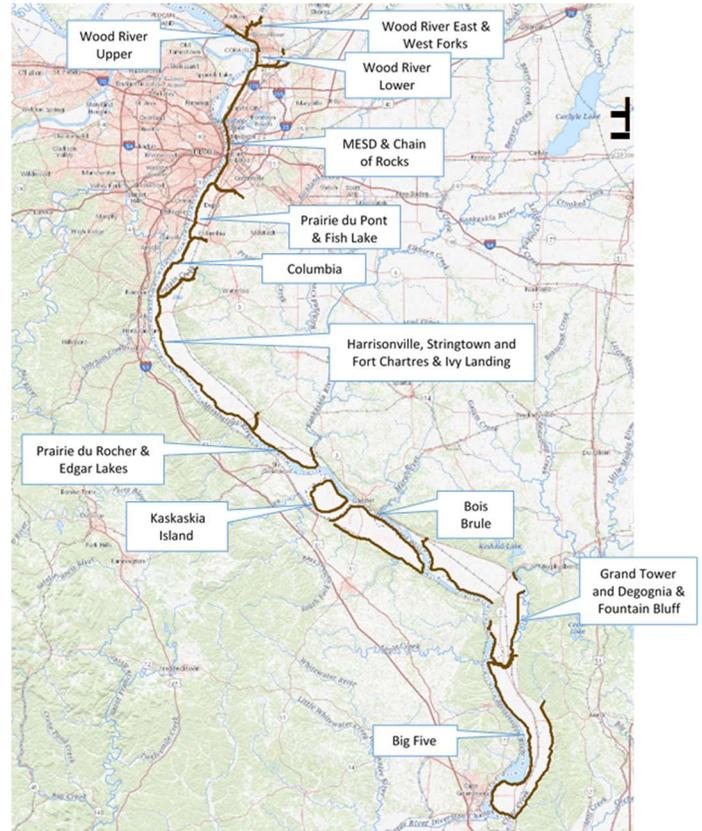
Importance: Collectively, it is estimated the levees provide flood risk reduction benefits to over 159,000 people and nearly \$17 billion in property value. Critical infrastructure includes multiple power generation and transmission sites, over fifty chemical industries and industrial sites, nearly one hundred schools, and six wastewater treatment facilities.

Risk: Screening-level risk assessments completed for these levees have identified three major risk drivers common to all levee systems.

- Slope stability
- Internal erosion (in the foundation and along conduits)
- Overtopping with breach

Changed river conditions such as more frequent and longer duration flooding/loading increases impacts of the identified risk drivers.

Consequence: Without a feasibility study, identified risk drivers are not comprehensively examined and continue to pose unacceptable threat to life safety, significant risk of damage to property and critical infrastructure. During the 2019 flood and previous major floods, these levee systems required substantial monitoring and technical assistance by MVS, as well as local and state flood response and mobilization of extensive resources, to address poor levee system performance on many of these levee systems.



Southwest Illinois levee systems.

Activities for FY22: N/A

Acquisition Strategy: No contracts are scheduled to be awarded in FY 22.

Activities after FY22: New start funding decision required to initiate Feasibility Study.

Project Partner: State of Illinois

Congressional Interest: Senate: Durbin and Duckworth (IL); House: Bost (IL-12)

Phase	FY 21 Allocation
Investigations	\$0