



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District

Information Paper

Melvin Price Reach of Wood River, IL Levee Underseepage Design Deficiency Corrections

Construction (Navigation)

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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. This underseepage corrections project is focused on the reach of Upper Wood River levee adjacent to the lock and dam.

Description: This project corrects the design deficiency by implementing features that will control underseepage for the full range of project events, from normal pool conditions up to the authorized level of protection (54 feet on the St. Louis gage). In 2009, excessive underseepage with unfiltered exits and sand boils was discovered, starting around the lock and dam and stretching approximately 7,000 feet upstream. Uncontrolled underseepage puts the levee at an elevated level of risk. A limited reevaluation report (LRR) was approved in 2012 that recommended permanent underseepage controls. A supplemental report, approved 28 August 2017, incorporates risk assessment guidelines per Engineer Regulation (ER) 1110-2-1156 and follows Flood Risk Management/Levee Safety regulations.

Project features include 80 new relief wells, access road and drainage collection system. Operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement (OMRR&R) of the project features will be the responsibility of the Wood River Drainage and Levee District. A one-time payment will be made to the Drainage and Levee District to compensate for the increase in OMRR&R due to the design deficiency corrections.

Status: The permanent solution is mainly comprised of two contracts. Relief Well No. 1 (25 wells) construction is complete. Relief Well No. 2 (55 wells) is 95% complete (wells, access road, and collector system are installed; contractor is abandoning unneeded relief wells and piezometers). Mitigation credits have been purchased; therefore, mitigation requirements will be verified soon after construction completion. OMRR&R payment to the Levee District to offset additional operation and maintenance expenses are scheduled for FY24.

Importance: The Wood River leveed area, including the Melvin Price reach, provides urban level of protection and was constructed in the 1950s. It protects approximately 31,000 individuals, industry, transportation infrastructure, and 13,700 acres valued at \$3.4 billion.

Authority: Internal Revenue Code of 1954, Title I – Replacement of Locks & Dam 26.

Schedule:

- Reach 2 Relief Wells complete: May 2024
- Notice of project completion: September 2024



Figure 1: Reach 1 Construction Complete

Activities for FY24: Continue construction management for Reach 1 (physically complete, but contract not yet closed) and for Reach 2. Carryover funds are also being used to monitor the IRRM as necessary, provide OMRR&R payment to Wood River Levee and Drainage District for future O&M costs, to complete O&M manual development for sponsor turnover and Ribbon Cutting (not yet scheduled).

Activities after FY24: Fiscal and Project Close Out

Project Partner: Project is 100% federally funded. Wood River Drainage and Levee District is responsible for OMRR&R. City of Alton, Illinois, will cost share the recreation facilities (50/50).

Congressional Interest: Senate: Durbin and Duckworth (IL)
House: Bost (IL-12), Miller (IL-15) and Budzinski (IL-13).

Financial:

Estimated Federal cost: \$39,459,000
Estimated non-Federal cost: \$0
Total estimated cost: \$39,459,000*
Total Federal funding to date: \$39,459,000

*Total cost includes Interim Operation Plan (IOP)