



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District

Information Paper

Southwest Illinois Levee Systems

Investigations (FRM)

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Location: Southwest Illinois Levee Systems are made up of 12 levee systems, which include 18 distinct levee districts. The levees are generally located between the communities of Alton and Gale, Illinois.

Description: An initial appraisal report approved by the Mississippi Valley Division in 2019 identified three primary risk driving failure modes: slope stability, underseepage and internal erosion, and overtopping with breach. This fact coupled with more frequent and longer duration Mississippi River floods is proliferating risk drivers and reduces the levee systems ability to perform. These recurring floods are continually weakening the foundations and increasing the risk of levee failures prior to overtopping. The 2019 flood and previous major floods reveal an overabundance of sand boil masses and seepage sections that require significant mobilization of local and state resources to address poor levee system performance.

Status: A Feasibility Study is needed to comprehensively evaluate system-wide risks, recommend risk-reduction actions where appropriate, and prioritize those actions to improve levee system performance and drive down risk during major floods. This study requires a new start decision. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency has secured its \$1.5M cost share for this study.

Importance: Collectively, 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.

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

Schedule:

- No activity scheduled pending receipt of federal funding.

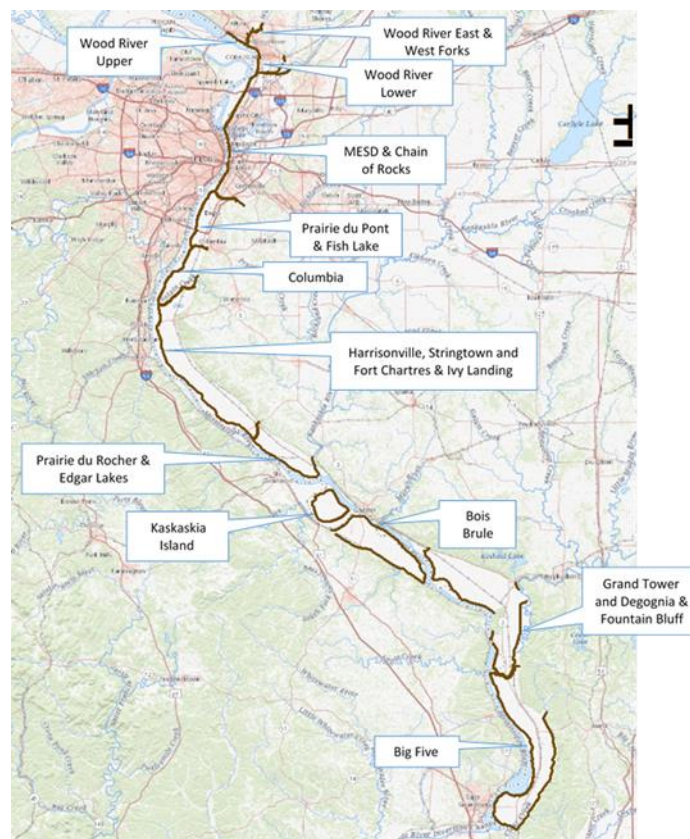


Figure 1: Southwest Illinois levee systems

Activities for FY24: TBD pending new start decision and receipt of federal funding.

Activities after FY24: TBD pending new start decision and receipt of federal funding.

Project Partner: Illinois Emergency Management Agency

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

Financial: Study Only

Estimated Federal cost: \$1,500,000

Estimated non-Federal cost: \$1,500,000

Total estimated cost: \$3,000,000

Total Federal funding to date: \$0