



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

Information Paper

Melvin Price Reach of Wood River, IL Levee Underseepage Design Deficiency Corrections Construction (Navigation)



Figure 1: Reach 1 Construction Complete

Contact

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Location

Melvin Price Lock and Dam is located in Madison County, Illinois (IL), 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 (WRDLD). 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. The Agreement for this payment was executed December 19, 2024.

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 physically complete (wells, access road, and collector system are installed). Mitigation credits have been purchased; hence, mitigation implementation is complete and has been verified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Illinois Department of Natural Resources. OMRR&R payment to the Levee District to offset additional operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses has been initiated and is being processed.

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

- Provide O&M requirements to WRDLD: February 2025
- Provide O&M payment to WRDLD: September 2025
- Notice of project completion: October 2025
- Project Fiscally Compete: February 2026

Activities for FY25

Carryover funds will be used to close out Reach 2 contract, provide OMRR&R payment to WRDLD for future O&M costs, to provide O&M requirements to WRDLD, initiate sponsor turnover and Ribbon Cutting (scheduled for June 2025).

Activities after FY25

Fiscal and Project Close Out

Project Sponsor/Customer

Project is 100% federally funded. WRDLD is responsible for OMRR&R.

Congressional Interest

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

Financial

Federal funding	\$39,459,000
Non-federal funding	\$ 0
Total Project Cost	\$39,459,000

Federal Funds Allocated to Date	\$39,459,000
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