US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Louis District

Information Paper

Wood River Levee, IL (Deficiency Correction) Construction (Flood Risk Management)

Figure 1: Excerpt from Supplement to LRR, Appendix G (Supplemental Environmental Assessment)

Contact
Hal Graef, Project Manager
(314) 225-8784
harold.w.graef@usace.army.mil

Location
The project area is in the Mississippi River flood plain of Madison County, Illinois, upstream of the city of East St. Louis. An urban design levee, authorized in 1938 and constructed in the 1950s, protects the area.

Description
The levee system was designed to withstand a flood at 54 feet on the St. Louis gage; approximately a 0.2 percent chance of exceedance (500-year event). The project includes replacing existing relief wells as well as installing new relief wells as a design deficiency correction under the existing project authorization. The recommended plan to correct deficiencies of underseepage controls identified in the Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) (as well as the 2019 Supplement to the LRR) and includes construction of new relief wells and associated ditch work, pump stations, pump station modifications and cutoff walls.

Status
Design deficiency corrections are underway to address uncontrolled underseepage. Sponsor (Southwestern Illinois FPD) is constructing federal project features for Work in Kind (WIK) credit and $17.7 million in WIK has been credited.

Four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) contracts are in various stages of construction, to include three new pump stations and 52 relief wells along Canal Rd and pump station modifications to Wood River and Hawthorne pump stations to add capacity. The single remaining USACE contract - Relief Well Packages No. 2 (56 wells plus ditching) – needs real estate acquisition from the sponsors to proceed to construction.

WIK contributions from partners have been initiated and include design and construction of a seepage berm including gravity drain

extension, detention basin and wetland mitigation. The project has been fully funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) supplemental appropriation of $26.9M in 2023.

Importance
The Wood River Levee System protects residential, industrial, and bottomland properties. The System protects a population of approximately 31,000 people in five towns, $3.4 billion in economic value (including a high concentration of industry such as petrochemical infrastructure, steel manufacturing, and ammunition production), and 12,700 acres of bottomland. In addition, the system is part of the containment feature of Melvin Price Locks and Dam.

Authority
Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1938; Section 103 of WRDA 1986; Section 1001(20) of WRDA 2007

Schedule
- RW No. 2/Ditch Work Non-Federal Sponsor Right of Way Certification: June 2025
- RW No. 2/Ditch Work Contract Award: August 2026
- Project Physically Complete: February 2028

Activities for FY25
Complete construction of three pump stations, 52 relief wells and pump station modifications; advance design efforts of 56 relief wells and associated ditching and coordinate with sponsors with respect to WIK activities. USACE continues to support both partners by exploring alternative solutions in Reach 2 due to a real estate impasse between the levee district and the city of Wood River.

Activities after FY25
Manage ongoing construction contracts and coordinate with sponsors with respect to WIK activities. Pending resolution of real estate acquisitions, the design team anticipates contract award of Relief Well No. 2/Ditch Work (56 wells and associated ditching) in Reach 2.

Project Sponsor/Customer
Wood River Drainage and Levee District and Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District (FPD) Council.

Congressional Interest
Senate: Durbin (IL) and Duckworth (IL)
House: Budzinski (IL-13)

Financial

Federal funding	$69,856,000
Non-federal funding	$37,615,000
Total Project Cost	$107,471,000
Federal Funds Allocated	$69,856,000 *

*$42,971,000 received to date, supplemental funds are distributed quarterly.