



Low Water 2012-2013

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

The St. Louis District covers roughly 28,000 square miles of Illinois and Missouri at the crossroads of three major river systems: the Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri. The District supports water resource development and provides engineering and technical services to improve the safety, economy and quality of life of the region and nation.



River Training Structures

NAVIGATION MISSION

The Mississippi River is a major artery for domestic and international commerce. The St. Louis District is responsible for maintaining a 9-foot-deep navigation channel on 300 miles of the Mississippi River, 80 miles of the Illinois River and 36 miles of the Kaskaskia River.

The District operates and maintains five lock and dam sites, four on the Upper Mississippi and one on the Kaskaskia River. Below St. Louis, the channel is maintained through a combination of dredging and river engineering.

LOW WATER ACTIONS

The St. Louis District has been preparing for low water for decades through an innovative river engineering program. River Training structures – rock dikes that use the river’s energy to move sand out of the channel – are a large part of why barges are still moving despite historic lows in some areas. River training structures provide a more reliable channel, reduce the need for maintenance dredging and improve the ability of commerce to move on the Middle Mississippi.

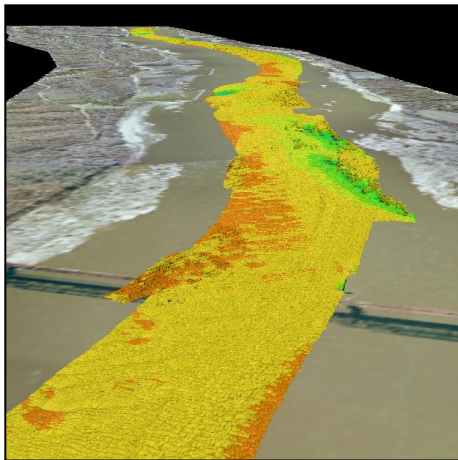
We have increased channel patrol and surveys, publishing survey information on the web for all to use:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/navigation1/surveys.html>



Dredge Potter

The Dredge Potter, a Corps dustpan dredge, has been dredging around the clock since early July to maintain the channel.



The Corps of Engineers also worked collaboratively with the Coast Guard, the River Industry Action Committee and the Harbor Association on the Coast Guard’s recent update of the Waterway Action Plan.

WHAT’S NEXT

Rock Pinnacles: We will be able to maintain a 9-foot deep channel to a stage of -5 on the St. Louis gage, the point at which rock formations in the river near Thebes, Illinois, will pose a risk to navigation. The St. Louis District is working on a contract to remove the most critical rock formations early next year. We have also created and provided electronic navigation charts overlays of this area at various river stages for mariners.