



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers®

Mississippi Valley Division and  
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

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## River Crests at Cairo

VICKSBURG, Miss., May 16, 2003 - With rising water on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is conducting water management operations to reduce the flood crest during the present high water event.

The Corps is using the flood control capability of their Barkley Lake on the Cumberland River and the Tennessee Valley Authorities Kentucky Lake on the Tennessee River, to ease the flood crest in the Cairo, Ill., area. This is the location of the confluence of the upper Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

Due to river levels and weather prior to early May, many farmers planted their crops in unprotected areas. As a result, there are farmers along the 500-mile reach of the Mississippi River below Cairo who have incurred rather severe economic hardship due to this event.

The Ohio River at Cairo crested on 15 May at 50.6 feet, more than 10 feet above flood stage.

The flood crest was reduced by the Corps' through their timely flow reduction on the lakes as the uncontrolled flows on the Ohio River approached Cairo. Approximately 68% of the total available flood control storage at Kentucky and Barkley Lakes is being used.

For questions about the operation of the Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, call Suzanne Fournier at Great Lakes and Ohio River Division 513-684-3010.