

## NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division

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### Expect Lower Mississippi River stages to rise

VICKSBURG, Miss., June 6, 2008 – According to the Mississippi Valley Division, Watershed Division, the Vicksburg area can expect to see a slight rise in Mississippi River stages due to rainfall in other portions of the Mississippi River Basin – according to the latest information from the National Weather Service - the lead forecaster for river stages.

The National Weather Service's current forecast calls for a significant rise on the lower Mississippi River from Cairo, Ill., to Caruthersville, Mo., with the next 24-hours of rainfall. With the flows from the Upper and Middle Mississippi and the Ohio rivers, the stage at Cairo is forecast to crest at 43.0 feet (flood stage is 40 feet) on June 14. Depending upon the rainfall, the crest could be higher. Consequently, stages downstream of Cairo could also be higher.

According to a Corps spokesperson, "We do anticipate a rise in river stages on the lower river due to all the rainfall in the upper basins, but how much of a rise is yet to be determined; it depends on future weather patterns." Additionally, a one-foot rise at Cairo does not equate to a one-foot rise at Vicksburg. The stage at Vicksburg is also still falling, so when the rise hits it will likely hit below the current gauge reading.

Day-to-day oversight and coordination of the Mississippi River's flow and its watershed is the responsibility of the Mississippi Valley Division's Watershed Division. MVD hydrologists and hydraulic engineers keep track of river stages in real time using satellite links to gages and coordinate closely with multiple organizations, including the National Weather Service, to provide an ongoing picture of current and expected river conditions.

Up to five inches of rainfall was recorded over an area extending from southern Nebraska across Iowa and into Wisconsin on June 4. Additionally, the Mississippi River Basin received up to five inches of rain along the Ohio River from Indiana through Ohio and into Maryland. Those rains will contribute to significant increases in flows in the Upper and Middle Mississippi and Ohio rivers and, subsequently, the Lower Mississippi River.

The latest 24 hour weather forecast from the National Weather Service also indicates a swath of light to medium rain from in northeastern North Dakota extending eastward into northern

Minnesota, most of Wisconsin and Michigan down through western Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, the southern two-thirds of Missouri and into northern Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma with amounts of up to one inch along the border of North Dakota, Minnesota and Canada and through the middle of Indiana, the lower portion of Illinois and middle of Missouri. The five-day forecast indicates five to six inches of rain from eastern Kansas, northern Missouri up through eastern Iowa, western Illinois and southern Wisconsin - which means the Upper Mississippi River Watershed is very likely to see a deluge over the next few days, likely causing some significant rises in the Upper and Middle Mississippi River stages. The rainfall may also contribute additional runoff into the Ohio River, increasing flows and stages on it also. The Lower Mississippi River, though, is likely to receive relatively normal rainfall, though the flows may increase significantly.

Presently, the Upper Mississippi is above flood stage from Lock and Dam 18 at Gladstone, Ill., to Chester, Ill., except for St. Louis, where it's expected to rise above the flood stage of 30 feet and crest at 34.5 feet on June 13. With the next 24-hours rainfall, Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Thebes, Mo., are also forecast to go above flood stage, with predicted crests at 40.0 feet (flood stage is 32 feet) and 39.0 feet (flood stage 33 feet) on June 15.

Rainfall for the month of June is also forecast to be above normal for the central part of the basin encompassing all of Illinois, most of Indiana, and significant parts of Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

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