

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

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Upper Mississippi River Flooding Update

VICKSBURG, Miss., June 23, 2008 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continue to monitor levees, locks and dams within the affected areas of the upper Mississippi Valley where flood fighting efforts are continuing.

Navigation

Locks 16-25 remain closed (Note: There is no Lock 23), and will remain closed through this week or longer. For locks to reopen, water must be below lock walls and miter gates and cleanup and needed repairs must be made by lock personnel. Locks are still underwater and therefore it is too early to predict when all locks will be open and operating.

While passage through locks is currently not possible, barge traffic is permitted in the pools between the locks but that is in adherence to safety restrictions issued by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Below is the updated schedule of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers locks that remain closed on the Upper Mississippi River:

June 12:

Lock 16 (Illinois City, Ill. – River Mile 457.2) closed at 11:30 a.m.

Lock 17 (New Boston, Ill. – River Mile 437.1) closed at 2:53 a.m.

Lock 18 (Gladstone, Ill. – River Mile 410.5) closed at 2:15 a.m.

Lock 20 (Canton, Mo. – River Mile 343.2) closed at 9:20 p.m.

June 13:

Lock 14 Auxiliary Lock (Pleasant Valley, Iowa – River Mile 493.3) closed.

Lock 19 (Keokuk, Iowa – River Mile 364.2) closed at 9:08 p.m.

Lock 21 (Quincy, Ill. – River Mile 324.9) closed at 5:40 p.m.

Lock 22 (Saverton, Mo. – River Mile 301.2) closed at 5:35 p.m.

June 14:

Lock 24 (Clarksville, Mo. – River Mile 272.2) closed at 2 p.m.

Lock 25 (Winfield, Mo. – River Mile 241.3) closed at 2 p.m.

The Mississippi River is moving swiftly and all recreational boaters are advised to use extreme caution. Swimming, wading or entering the Mississippi River during these high river stages is not recommended. There are no short cuts to safety. The Corps also urges people who live or travel near the rivers to continue to monitor water levels and in particular, not to drive into water-covered roads. Alternative routes should be used.

If you need more information, please contact the Rock Island District Corporate Communications office, at (309) 794-5274 for locks 12 - 22; or the St. Louis District Public Affairs Office at (314) 331-8002 for locks 24 and 25.

While it is difficult to identify economic impacts to commercial navigation, the following is a “snap shot” of last year’s activity from the two-week period of June 15-30 at Lock 25, the southernmost closure in the system from Lock 16 at Muscatine, Iowa:

June 15-30, 2007, time frame -- this is a reasonable expectation of the time the locks on the upper Mississippi River will be closed, providing there is not an extended period of high water.

During the same two-week period last year, Lock 25 locked:

1881 barges – about 2/3 full and 1/3 empties– passed both directions in 141 commercial tows

Those barges carried a total of 1,956,844 tons of bulk commodities, including:

- 1,195,000 tons of farm products
- 297,000 tons of coal
- 184,000 tons of crude materials (gravel, etc.)
- 177,000 tons of chemicals

In addition: 22 tow boats without barges (light) and 73 recreation craft were locked through.

Levees & Dams

Urban levees in the St. Louis area along the Mississippi River are also being monitored to ensure that nothing unexpected arises. A map showing levee status is available on the web at <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/floodfight/Status.html>

The St. Louis District has reported 11 levees overtopped and the Rock Island District has reported 13. Information about Rock Island District’s levees is available at

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/MidwestFlooding2008/Home.htm>

While the Corps does not anticipate any issues with levees located south of St. Louis to Cairo, Ill., flood fight team members and geotechnical experts are in the field working closely with

local levee districts and county emergency management agencies to ensure that nothing unexpected arises.

The Corps dams at Red Rock in Knoxville, Iowa, Saylorville in Johnston, Iowa, and Coralville in Iowa City, Iowa, are performing as designed. There are no issues or concerns with the dams' structural integrity or operation. Water levels are dropping at the three reservoirs. If current weather predictions are accurate, this trend will continue.

All Corps reservoirs are built to stringent engineering standards to ensure they will withstand record flood events. Each reservoir is under observation to ensure its structural integrity and safety. During flood events, the Corps evaluates the dams on a daily basis by reading piezometers, which are permanently located at different elevations within the dam. A piezometer measures internal hydrostatic pressures of the dam.

The dams are also visually inspected several times a day during flood events. Corps dams are designed to withstand enormous pressures and water levels. All of the Corps reservoirs are operated to conform to a strict, standard regulation plan that is coordinated by the Corps with local, state and federal agencies with water resources responsibilities. This standard includes regulation of releases during flood events.

To date the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued 13.4 million sandbags, 2,893 rolls of plastic sheeting and 17 pumps to support flood fighting efforts in the Midwest. That is enough sandbags to stretch from San Francisco to Washington D.C. Currently the Corps of Engineers has 334 personnel directly involved in flood fight efforts.

Updated information about the Mississippi River is available on the web by visiting the Corps' website at www.rivergages.com <<http://www.rivergages.com/>>. This web site includes links to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Weather Service websites that track Mississippi River flow and projected rainfall amounts. Other useful web sites include:

St. Louis District Flood Fight Page:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/floodfight/>

Rock Island District Flood Fight Information:

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/MidwestFlooding2008/Home.htm>

Map of Current Areas of Interest:

<http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil>

Graphic of Lock Locations:

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/9FootStaircase.gif>

Graphic of Mississippi River 9-foot Staircase:

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/LockLocationMap.pdf>

U.S. Coast Guard

<http://www.uscgstormwatch.com>

The Mississippi Valley Division includes portions of 12 states and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The [Mississippi Valley Division](#) includes six district offices, which are responsible for conducting programs and activities and are located in St. Paul, Minn.; Rock Island, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Miss.; and New Orleans, La.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a major Army command with a broad set of missions and capabilities. One of its missions is to provide assistance, within its authorities, when natural disasters or other emergencies occur.

Emergency preparedness and response is primarily a state and local responsibility. However, in instances when the nature of the disaster exceeds the capabilities of state and local interests, the Mississippi Valley Division may provide help to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or relieve property damage.

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