



# Locks and Dam 15 Government Interceptor Sewer

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

October 2014

## Location

Bettendorf and Davenport, Iowa.

## Overview

The double- and single-barrel underground government interceptor sewer system is an integral part of the Nine-Foot Channel Navigation Project. To alleviate concern that the increased river height following completion of the Project would adversely affect sewers, the Rock Island District designed and constructed an interceptor sewer that collects and drains all storm water flows originating upstream of Locks and Dam 15 from the land side of Bettendorf & Davenport, Iowa, to the downstream side of the Dam. The government interceptor sewer system was constructed in 1934 concurrently with Locks and Dam 15 and the Davenport seawall.

Davenport and Bettendorf storm sewers originally drained directly to the Mississippi River prior to construction of Locks and Dam 15. The government interceptor sewer collects all storm water flows from a distance of nearly six miles and drains to the Mississippi River at a location immediately downstream of the Dam.

## Condition

The lengthy duration of high river levels below Locks and Dam 15 during the 2011 flood caused backwater to extend most of the length upstream into the sewer. This condition, along with high storm water runoff into the system, caused sediment to collect in the sewer. This has significantly restricted its carrying capacity which has contributed to repeat flooding of streets and low-lying areas during heavy rainfall events.

While constructing the Corps' Flood Risk Management Project for the Iowa American Water Company, a breach for a storm water pipe connection revealed that one barrel of the double-barrel sewer section was 100% blocked with sediment. The Corps obtained funding to inspect and develop a plan to remove the blockage. The inspection also revealed that gate valves designed to allow maintenance flushing (cleanout) were inoperable and have subsequently been repaired by the Corps.

## Status

A contract was awarded to RB Construction, Sterling Heights, Mich., for constructing seven manholes and two bulkheads (to facilitate cleanout), and to perform cleanout along blocked portions of the interceptor sewer. Construction was scheduled to begin in May 2014; however, due to high river levels, construction was postponed until August 2014. The anticipated project completion is July 2015 at an estimated cost of \$2 million.

Although this project will improve storm water drainage in Bettendorf and Davenport, it is a federally funded project and is not a component of sewer construction and repair work underway by the city of Davenport.



**Davenport Seawall & Interceptor Sewer, May 31, 1932.** Looking west from the deck of the Government Bridge showing progress on the interceptor sewer and seawall. (Original Construction Photo, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

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CLOCK TOWER BUILDING – P.O. BOX 2004 – ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204

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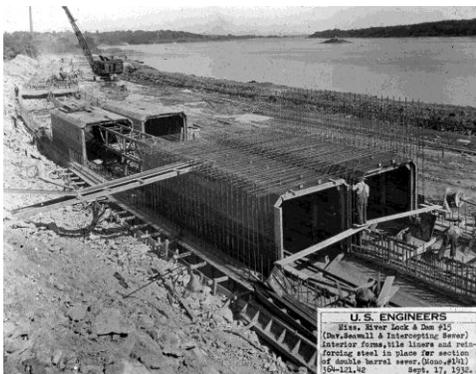
Original construction photos of the interceptor sewer and Davenport seawall.



**Left: May 12, 1932.** Looking east from station 168+00, showing completed sewer before backfilling trench.



**Right: May 31, 1932.** Looking east from station 204+00, showing invert forms in place for monoliths 683, 685, 687 and 689.



**Left: Sept. 17, 1932.** Interior forms, tile liners and reinforcing steel in place for section of double barrel sewer (monolith #141).



**Right: Oct. 24, 1932.** Looking southwest showing monolith #210 containing 30" cast iron intake pipes for Davenport Water Works.



**Left: Jan. 23, 1933.** Looking west in south barrel of sewer from monolith #185.



**Right: Jan. 24, 1933.** Completed monolith on branch line. Sewer connection #28 looking south-east.

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