

Project Factsheet for: Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan

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Project Location Information

Location: Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River

State(s): IA, IL, MN, MO, WI

Congressional District(s): IA-1, IA-2, IA-3, IL-11, IL-16, IL-17, IL-18, IL-19, MO-9, WI-3

Status

The initial appropriation was provided in FY 2002. There is strong Congressional and stakeholder interest. The completion of the hydrologic evaluation of the Upper Mississippi River system, the first time the basin has been analyzed systemically on a statistical frequency basis, has resulted in significant understanding of the relationship and impact of the major rivers on one another. Additionally, the systemic impacts of both large and small-scale changes to the existing flood protection system are better understood.

For systemic analysis, measures such as levee setbacks, new levees and modifying levee-overtopping elevations were incorporated for alternative plan development. The analysis to date indicates that system levee increases have benefit to cost ratios that are less than 1.0. There is potentially a federal interest in providing flood protection for approaches to a Mississippi River bridge, to reduce significant traffic detours. These significant detours occurred during the 1993 flood. A Draft Report for Public Review for the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan was distributed in May, public meetings were held in June followed by substantial public input and comments being submitted after the meetings.

Description

The Great Flood of 1993 resulted in catastrophic damages throughout much of the Upper Mississippi River basin. Forty-seven deaths were attributed to the flood and flood damages exceeded \$15 billion. About half of the flood damages were related to agricultural losses. Approximately 74,000 people were evacuated and flooding damaged 72,000 homes. In-place flood damage reduction facilities (e.g. levees, etc.) built by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) prevented an estimated \$19 billion in potential additional damages. While the Great Flood of 1993 could not be prevented, an integrated system of flood damage reduction and floodplain management measures could have further reduced the amount of damages incurred.

The 1993 flood along with several significant subsequent flood events prompted citizens to push for a comprehensive plan to integrate existing and needed projects into a coordinated system for flood damage reduction and floodplain management. Similarly, floodplain economic and environmental values can be maximized by systemically identifying opportunities for floodplain-compatible economic development and ecosystem restoration, preservation, and enhancement.

The Comprehensive Plan for the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers is developing an implementation plan for: flood damage reduction, improving management of nutrients and sediment, and flood damage reduction-related environmental stewardship and ecosystem restoration, and river-related recreation needs and opportunities. The plan is being developed by the three Corps Districts (St. Paul, Rock Island, and St. Louis) in close collaboration with other Federal and state agencies. Coordination mechanisms have been established to coordinate plan development with stakeholders and other interests. Existing data and information has been used to evaluate alternatives for flood damage reduction as well as other study efforts.

The Comprehensive Plan assessed systemic, multipurpose flood damage reduction project alternatives that are consistent with environmental sustainability goals. Both structural and non-structural measures are fully considered. Any necessary follow-on implementation studies, and then pre-construction engineering and design (PED), and construction will require appropriate cost sharing.

Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost	\$5,800,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$5,800,000
Federal Allocations through FY 2005	\$4,719,000
Scheduled Federal Allocation for FY 2006	\$395,000
Balance to Complete	\$686,000

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY06 funding is being used to complete the draft report, hold public meetings, continue coordination with state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, and submit the document to higher Corps of Engineer Headquarters..

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

Study is not in President's Budget. If funding is available regional analysis related to the report conclusions and recommendations would be performed and the report processed .

Authority

GI - General Investigations -- Section 459 of WRDA 1999.

Additional Information

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