US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Navigation: Mississippi River Navigation Project

Location/Description

The St. Paul District is responsible for maintaining 244 miles of the Upper Mississippi River 9-foot channel navigation system from the head of navigation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Guttenberg, Iowa. The project is located in or contiguous to Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. The navigation project within the St. Paul District includes the infrastructure of 13 sets of locks and dams that are operated and maintained by the Corps.

In addition to the locks and dams, annual channel maintenance actions are required to maintain the congressionally authorized 9-foot channel depth. These channel maintenance activities consist of dredging approximately 900,000 cubic yards per year from 37 distinct locations that require periodic dredging. Dredged material placement is planned for the long-term and is actively managed to maximize beneficial use of the material and to minimize adverse environmental impacts within the riverine environment.

The project also includes Blackhawk Park, the Corps operated recreation area located 30 miles south of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and natural resource management for approximately 22,000 acres above normal pool elevation. The natural resource management lands are cooperatively managed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the agreement that established the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

Status

In 2007, funding is being used to accomplish annually recurring operation and maintenance activities necessary to maintain navigation; continue the endangered species recovery program; and contract maintenance from private industry, including major maintenance construction at Lock and Dam 10, stoplog slot cutting at Locks and Dams 4 and 9, stoplog bulkhead procurement, and repair to flood-damaged earthen embankments at Lock and Dam 5A. Procurement of stoplog bulkheads and slot cutting for these bulkheads are measures required for the safe maintenance dewatering and repair of lock chambers. They are also critical to emergency repairs should the need arise because of a major component failure or barge accident. Work for a winter dewatering and repair of the lock chamber at Lock and Dam 2 was also completed in March 2007.

Fiscal year 2008 funding will allow continuation of the Lock and Dam 10 multiyear major maintenance contract. It is also anticipated to allow continuation of Mississippi River endangered species recovery; initiation of contract maintenance items including the Teepeeota dredged material site unloading, winter dewatering and repair of the lock chamber at Lock and Dam 3; and bulkhead slot cutting at two lock and dam sites.

Authority

The project was authorized as part of the River and Harbor Act approved July 3, 1930.

Fiscal

Operation and maintenance of the project is funded annually under the Corps of Engineers Civil Works Operation and Maintenance appropriation. Mississippi River funding allocated to the St. Paul District in recent fiscal years has averaged approximately $50 million.