

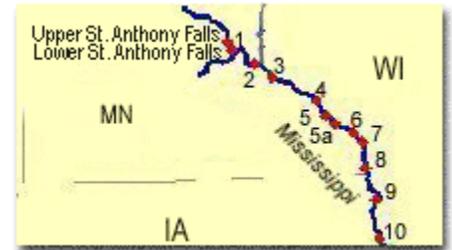


US Army Corps of
Engineers
St. Paul District

Upper Mississippi River 9-Foot Project Channel Maintenance; MN, WI, IA

Location/Description

The St. Paul District is responsible for maintaining 284 miles of the Upper Mississippi River 9-foot channel navigation system from the head of navigation at Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Guttenberg, Iowa. It also includes the lower navigable portions of the Minnesota, St. Croix, and Black Rivers.



The navigation project is achieved primarily by a series of locks and dams, of which 13 are in the St. Paul District. Channel maintenance consists of dredging; the use of channel control structures such as wing dams, closing dams, and bank revetment; snag removal; accurate channel marking; and close monitoring of conditions.



The District dredges an average of 900,000 cubic yards per year at approximately 37 locations. Both government and contract hydraulic and mechanical dredges are used. Dredged material placement is extensively planned for the long term and is actively managed to maximize beneficial use of the material. Channel control structures are maintained to minimize dredging quantities without affecting natural resources.

Status

Annual operation and maintenance is required to ensure safe, reliable navigation. Coordination with project users, other river resource agencies, and the public is crucial to a successful program. Channel maintenance policies and procedures are explained in the District's Channel Maintenance Management Plan. That plan is updated annually to document past activities and describe current work and future plans.

Operational agreements have been developed with State regulatory agencies to facilitate channel maintenance. The channel maintenance program is flexible and allows for consideration of emerging river resource management initiatives such as pool-wide water level management and long-range environmental pool plans. From 2002 to 2006, 100 percent of the material dredged was placed at beneficial use sites.

Capacity at temporary placement sites is maintained by periodically unloading dredged material and transferring it to permanent locations. A contract to remove material from the Above Brownsville site near Brownsville, Minnesota, was awarded in August 2007. The material will be used to construct habitat islands in a nearby backwater in 2008. Unloading material from the Teepeeota Point site is scheduled to begin in 2008. This project will provide future storage capacity for dredged material at Teepeeota Point and assist in the reclamation of a gravel pit near Wabasha, Minnesota.

Authority

The 9-foot channel navigation project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930. It is 100 percent federally maintained with the exception of short segments in Minneapolis and on the Minnesota River. Local sponsors are responsible for furnishing dredged material placement sites on those segments.

Fiscal

The Federal cost of channel maintenance in the St. Paul District is approximately \$11 million annually.

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