Project Factsheet for:
Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan

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Project Location Information

Location: Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River
River Basin(s): Illinois, Mississippi
State(s): IA , IL , MN , MO , WI
Congressional District(s): IA-1 , IA-2 , IA-4 , IL-16 , IL-17 , 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 indicates that system levee increases have benefit to cost ratios that are less than 1.0. There is potentially a federal interest in reconstruction of existing levee systems and providing flood protection for approaches to Mississippi River bridges, to reduce significant traffic detours. These significant detours occurred during the 1993 flood and subsequent floods. A Draft Report for Public Review for the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan was distributed in May 2006 public meetings were held in June 2006 followed by substantial public input and comments being submitted after the meetings. The report was completed in June 2008,

The report was submitted to Congress in January 2009.

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 developed 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 was developed by the three Corps Districts (St. Paul, Rock Island, and St. Louis) in close collaboration with other Federal and state agencies. Coordination mechanisms were established to coordinate plan development with stakeholders and other interests. Existing data and information was 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 were fully considered. Preliminary analysis, included in the Comprehensive Plan report, indicated potential Federal Interest for pursuing a feasibility study for existing levee system reconstruction and for greater flood protection of the UMR& ILWW vehicular and railroad bridges. Any necessary follow-on implementation studies, and then pre-construction engineering and design (PED), and construction will require appropriate cost sharing. Further study of tributary under the Comprehensive Plan authority is a possibility.

Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost	12,000,000	$750,000
Non-Federal Cost	0	$750,000
Total Cost	12,000,000	$1,500,000
Federal Allocations through FY 2007	5,830,000	0
2009 Appropriation	163,000	0
FY 2010 Budget	0	0
Balance to Complete after FY 2009	6,007,000	$750,000

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

Finalize and submit the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan Report to higher headquarters. The report was submitted to Congress on January 15, 2009 by the ASA (CW). Initiate follow up activities relating to protection of critical transportation infrastructure, rehabilitation of flood protection systems, and reconnaissance level study of the Iowa/Cedar Rivers tributary (which had a record flooding event in 2008) and potentially other tributary watersheds.

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

Study is not in President's Budget.

Authority

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

Additional Information

Funding table does not include potential expansion of the scope of the Comprehensive Plan to include tributaries.

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