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US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Fact Sheet

Pool 2 Wing Dam Modification Project, Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP)

Pool 2 Aerial View, Upper Mississippi River

Location
The project area is in the middle and lower half of Pool 2, Upper Mississippi River, downstream of St. Paul, Minnesota; spanning Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties, Minnesota.

Description
The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) is a long-term program of ecosystem restoration and navigation improvements for the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS). NESP originated from a 14-year Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study which was completed in September 2004. This intensive study evaluated the system's navigation improvement and ecological restoration needs through the year 2050. The system is a vital part of our national economy and a valuable ecological resource. The 1,200 miles of 9-foot navigation channel created by the 37 locks and dams provides an integral regional, national, and international transportation network that carries valuable commodities and key exports. The Upper Mississippi River ecosystem consists of 2.7 million acres of bottomland forest, islands, backwaters, side channels and wetlands - all of which support more than 600 species of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, fish, and mussels. The study recommended a program of incremental implementation and comprehensive adaptive management to ensure a sustainable natural ecosystem and navigation system. The Pool 2 Wing Dam Modification Project was initialized under the NESP authority following authorization in 2007.

Background
The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) was authorized in WRDA 2007 (Title VIII), to construct small-scale navigation improvements (mooring cells and switchboats), seven (7) new 1200-foot lock chambers, and ecosystem/habitat restoration.

In 2009, Through the NESP authority, a Project Implementation Report (PIR) for the Pool 2 Wing Dam Modification Project was completed. The PIR established ecosystem restoration goals and specific performance measure indicators; specified the without-project condition or baseline for each performance measure indicator; and, for each separable element of the ecosystem restoration, identified specific target goals for each performance indicator.

The recommended plan as identified in the PIR includes notching 30 wing dams to improve channel border habitat for fish; 23 wing dams were proposed to have a single notch and 7 wing dams were proposed to have a double notch. The Project Delivery Team is currently assessing the existing condition of the 30 wing dams as well as potential impacts to navigation that could be triggered by wing dam notching. The number and location of wing dam notches will be modified to meet project benefits in accordance with existing conditions.

Status
An economic update for NESP was completed in FY 2019. PED activities are now advancing with $4.5M in FY20 Investigation funds. Approximately $150K will be required to complete required PED for the Pool 2 Wing Dam Modification Project. The PDT is striving to complete plans & specifications by the second quarter of FY21. The PIR estimated construction costs would total $118K. Construction costs will be refined throughout the development of plans & specifications.

The capability for each study or project is defined as the estimated amount of additional, new funding that, if provided in the applicable FY, can be used effectively and efficiently in that FY, consistent with law and contracting and execution policy, assuming that all unobligated carry-in to that FY is used first. However, each capability estimate is made without reference to the availability of manpower, equipment, and other resources across the Army Civil Works program, so the sum of the capability estimates exceeds the amount that the Corps actually could use in a single FY. The Budget allocates funding among studies and projects on a performance basis in a manner that will enable the Corps to use that funding effectively. Furthermore, the overall funding level proposed in the Budget for the Army Civil Works program reflects the Administration's assessment of national priorities in view of the range of potential private and public uses of funds. Consequently, while the Corps could obligate additional funds for some studies and projects, offsetting reductions within the Army Civil Works program would be required to maintain overall budgetary objectives.