



East St. Louis and Vicinity Flood Protection Project Levee System Flood Risk Fact Sheet U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Project Description & Background

- The East St. Louis and Vicinity Flood Protection Project (East St. Louis) Levee System reduces the flood risk from the Mississippi River to 250,000 people that live or work behind the levee and more than \$6.4 billion in land and property in Madison and St. Clair Counties.
- The system is nearly 29 miles in length and consists of two levee segments:
 - Metro East Sanitary District (MESD) levee operated by local interests
 - Chain of Rocks East levee, operated by USACE
- The levee system is designed to reduce risk of flooding for river levels greater than those experienced in the 1993 flood and has prevented flooding during 25 major flood events, preventing more than \$5 billion in flood damages.
- The levee system has prevented the community from flooding during numerous major flood events, however these events have also exposed vulnerabilities in the system. There are weaknesses in the system related to underseepage and deteriorated pipes passing through the levee.
- Some underseepage is normal, but if severe enough, underseepage can move soil particles from beneath the levee and deposit materials on the landside forming a sandboil (see below diagram).
- The Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council (FPD), MESD and USACE are working together to address concerns with underseepage and pipes, but additional work is needed to fully repair the system.
- All levees have some risk of overtopping or failure. Because the region is heavily industrialized and populated, consequences of levee overtopping or failure are high.

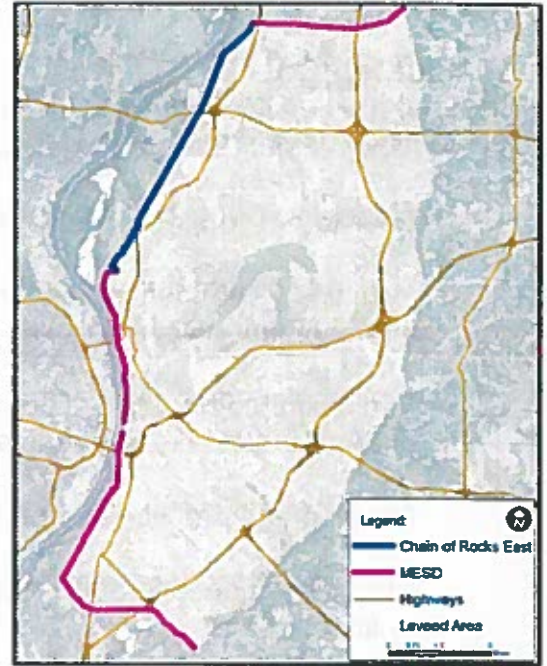


Figure 1. East St. Louis & Vicinity Flood Protection Project

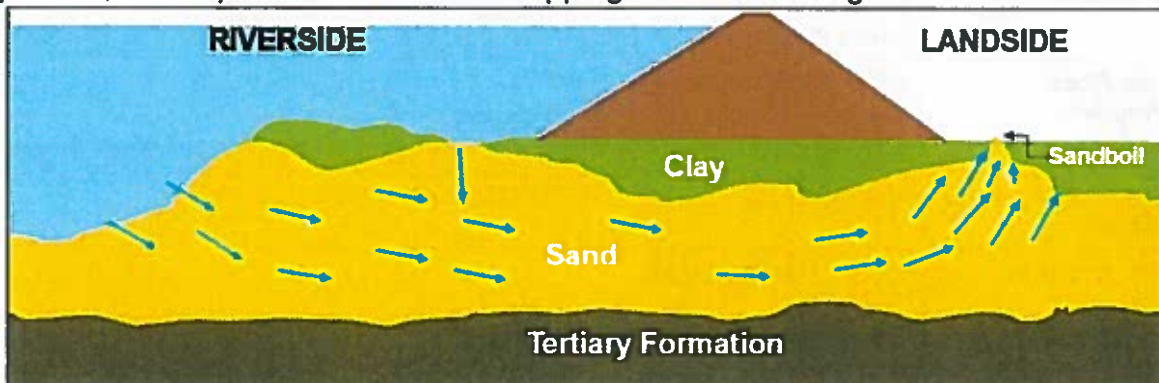


Figure 2. Underseepage occurring beneath a levee

Shared Risk

- Levees provide tremendous benefits to the community, but they do not completely eliminate flood risk. Even the strongest levee has *some* risk of failure or overtopping.
- Managing flood risk is a responsibility shared by all stakeholders, including USACE, other federal agencies, state, county, and local governments and the impacted community. All must work together to reduce the impacts from the flood risk and build resilient communities.

What You Can Do

- It is important to know that when you live or work behind a levee there is always some residual risk of flooding, but there are actions you can take to manage that risk.
 - Be aware if you live or work behind a levee
 - Remain vigilant during flood events; listen for and follow instructions from local emergency management officials
 - Know your community's flood emergency preparedness and evacuation plans and be prepared to evacuate during a flood.
 - Develop and practice personal, family or business emergency preparedness plans
 - Purchase flood insurance – Insurance transfers risk and makes communities more resilient to floods.
 - Flood-proof structures to reduce impacts of flooding to your home or business.
 - Support your local levee sponsor in their efforts to operate maintain a safe levee system.
 - Encourage elected local, county and state officials to make sound flood risk management decisions, such as adopting higher floodplain management standards for development.
 - Know your risk, know your role and take action to reduce your risk!

Contacts

Additional information about this levee system may be obtained from the following entities.

Local Emergency Management Agency	Madison County Emergency Management Service, 618-692-0537; ema@co.madison.il.us St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency, 618-825-2683
Local Levee Sponsors	Metro East Sanitary District, East St. Louis, Illinois, 618-452-9400 Rivers Project Office, St. Louis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 636-899-2600
FEMA National Flood Insurance Program	FEMA Region: V, Chicago, Illinois Map Service Center: https://msc.fema.gov/ Map Information eXchange (FMIX), 1-877-336-2627, FEMAMapSpecialist@riskmapcdis.com
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District	Emergency Management, (314) 331-8569; cemvs-eoc@usace.army.mil
National Levee Database	http://nld.usace.army.mil