



Des Moines Levees System, Des Moines & Raccoon Rivers, Iowa - Flood Risk Management

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Location

Des Moines, Iowa

State(s)

IA

Congressional District(s)

IA-3

Status

FY 2015 Work Plan funding was provided to initiate a General Reevaluation Study. In 2010, the City of Des Moines requested a study to evaluate the impacts of the increased flood risk identified in the 2010 Des Moines River Regulated Flow Frequency Study, which indicated the system provides lower than 100-year (0.1% annual chance exceedance) level of protection. The City strongly supports this study to evaluate a variety of structural and nonstructural flood risk management measures to increase their level of protection. The study area includes the entire downtown area and the Southeast Des Moines levee which is part of the Lake Red Rock project and is connected to the downtown levee system.



Description

The existing levee system protects much of the city's critical infrastructure, including City Hall, the Police Station, a regional sewage treatment facility, and aviation fuel facilities. Downtown Des Moines is also a national center for the insurance industry. Flooding of these areas would result in extensive flooding of neighborhoods and commercial/industrial areas that could cause serious contamination of Red Rock Reservoir. Approximately 600,000 people would be impacted by the flooding. The Des Moines and Raccoon River was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, and funds were appropriated in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2010. The project has completed reconstruction of levees at Birdland Park and Central Place as recommended in the 2005 feasibility report and construction of closure improvements in the downtown levee system is scheduled to be completed in 2015. The 2010 Des Moines River Regulated Flow Frequency Study identified a high risk of flooding in the Des Moines area - significantly higher than estimated in a 2005 feasibility report. The resulting hydraulics show that the existing levees in downtown Des Moines do not provide reliable protection against a 100-year flood. The General Reevaluation Study will determine if the Federal projects should be modified to reduce flood risk.

Summarized Project Costs

	Investigations
Federal Cost	\$ 1,500,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$ 1,300,000
Total Cost	\$ 2,800,000
Federal Allocations through FY 2014	\$ 0

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FY 2015 Allocations	\$ 300,000
FY 2016 Budget	\$ 700,000
Balance to Complete	\$ 500,000

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY2015: Complete Review Plan, Project Management Plan (PMP), 3x3x3 Compliance Memo, and execute Cost Share Agreement with City of Des Moines (non-Federal sponsor). Initiate General Reevaluation study.

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

FY2016: Pending Federal funding: Continue General Reevaluation study.

Authority Details

Resolution adopted by Congress on July 1, 1958, following appropriation of funds in the 1998 E&WDAA, also Section 216 of the 1970 Flood Control Act (Public Law 91-611)

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