



Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan (UMRCP)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Location

Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River

State(s)

IA,IL,MN,MO,WI

Congressional District(s)

IA-1, IA-2, IA-3, IA-4, IL-13, IL-17, IL-18, MO-6, WI-3

Status

No work is currently planned in FY2017 due to lack of funding. Original work started in FY2002, when the initial appropriation was provided, on a systemic flood risk management plan for 500-year levees on the mainstem of the Mississippi River and Illinois River. The initial work resulted in a 2008 Report which identified no federal interest for construction of higher levees but did recommended additional work in four areas: 1) providing technical support and facilitating continued development of flood risk management strategies for the main stems, 2) developing flood risk management strategies for major tributaries to the Mississippi River and Illinois River, 3) developing a plan and determining federal interest in protecting critical transportation infrastructure, and 4) assessing federal interest in reconstruction of existing flood damage reduction projects. Following a public hearing and endorsement by the Mississippi River Commission, the report was submitted to Congress in January 2009.

Description

The Upper Mississippi Comprehensive Plan (UMRCP) seeks to collaboratively develop a systemic flood risk management (FRM) strategy for the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) watershed with Federal agencies, 5 states, local governments, and stakeholders in order to reduce the flood related damages and improve system resilience. UMRCP funding has been sought for past four years to initiate the development of a new HEC-RAS hydraulic model to better understand and evaluate FRM consequences along the mainstem Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. In late FY16, \$500,000 was reprogrammed to allow the development of this hydraulic model for a 320 miles segment stretching from Keokuk, IA (Rivermile 364) to Thebes, IL (Rivermile 44). The development and testing of this new hydraulic model for this first of four segments is expected to take 12-15 months and is expected to serve as a catalyst for renewed collaboration and systemic FRM Strategy. The hydraulic model is a key tool and would be a shared model used by Federal and states agencies to replace multiple existing models currently in use to more effectively and consistently manage the floodplains. The UMR watershed still has residual risk of catastrophic losses such as those that occurred in the Great Flood of 1993. The Great Flood of 1993 resulted in catastrophic damages throughout much of the Upper Mississippi River basin with damages exceeding \$15 billion and forty-seven deaths were attributed to the flood. Approximately 74,000 people were evacuated and 72,000 homes were damaged. Flood risk management facilities (e.g. levees, etc.) built by the Corps of Engineers prevented an estimated \$19 billion in potential additional damages. While the 1993 flood could not be prevented, an integrated system of flood risk and floodplain management measures could have further reduced the amount of damages. Citizens remain concerned about future flooding such as the recent floods of 2008, 2010,



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2011, 2013, 2014, and 2016 and continue to call for Federal action to develop an Upper Mississippi River (UMR) basin Flood Risk Management (FRM) strategy. A collaborative, integrated, holistic and sustainable flood risk management strategy is needed to protect the public and reduce the flood damages to the Nation. A resilient UMR FRM system will protect lives and property, secure our Nation by reducing risk from disaster, and reduce the potential of future Federal, State, and local expenditures. UMRCP is being developed Rock Island, St. Louis, and St. Paul Districts in collaboration with federal, state and local agencies and stakeholders. UMRCP work is drawing on available information and integrating with work by others and other programs to the extent possible.

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY2016: No funding was allocated in FY2016 . If funding was received, it would be used to prepare the Report to Congress as requested by 2016 Consolidated Appropriation Act. The 2016 Consolidated Appropriation Act stated "In lieu of Senate report direction for the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan, the agreement encourages the Corps of Engineers to provide, not later than 60 days after the enactment of this Act, a comprehensive survey of the authorization and funding requirements necessary for the Corps to continue work on the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan, including work on alternative scenarios for the 500 year flood (included in the current plan, Plan H). The Corps is encouraged to outline the perceived challenges to, and recommendations for, working toward the creation of an overall flood risk management plan for the entire main stem of the Mississippi River as part of the report."

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

FY2017: No funding is anticipated in FY17.

Authority Details

Section 459 of WRDA 1999.

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