

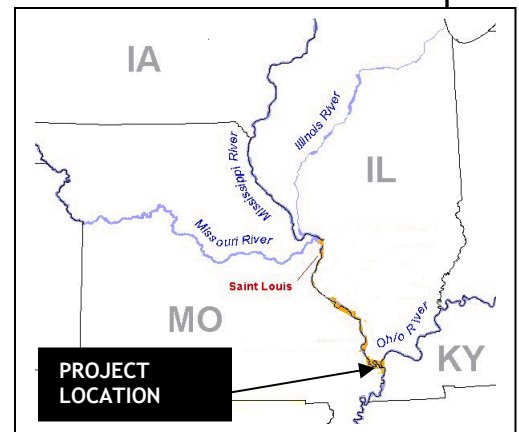
PROTECT MISSOURI, ILLINOIS and KENTUCKY RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES

ST. JOHNS/NEW MADRID FLOODWAY PROJECT THREATENS WETLANDS AND RIVERSIDE COMMUNITIES

On July 29, the Senate passed an Energy and Water spending bill which included anti-environmental riders inserted by Senator Bond (R-MO) that could breathe new life into a destructive project stopped by a Sept. 2007 Court Order. The House of Representative's version of the bill, which it passed on July 17, does not include these anti-environmental riders. This September, the House and Senate will designate 'conferees' to merge, or 'conference' the House bill with the Senate bill.

THE BOND RIDER SHOULD BE REMOVED DURING THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The project, called the St. John's/New Madrid Floodway Project, would wall-off a quarter-mile gap in the Mississippi River levee system in order to intensify cotton and soybean production. However, this closure would prevent the Mississippi River from reaching its floodplain, drain an area larger than Washington DC, destroying 75,000 acres of rare backwater habitat critical to America's fisheries, wildlife and local water quality, and put the towns of Cairo, IL, and Hickman and Paducah, KY, at greater risk of flooding.



On Sept. 14, 2007, U.S. District Court Judge James Robertson stated that, "The Corps of Engineers has resorted to arbitrary and capricious reasoning -- manipulating models and changing definitions where necessary -- to make this project seem compliant with the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act when it is not." Judge Robertson not only ordered the Corps to halt constructing the project, but to also undo the work they had already done.

FINAL PASSAGE OF THE BILL IS EXPECTED IN SEPTEMBER

Prior to the Court ruling, the Corps had already constructed some temporary features, such as a coffer dam, which is currently harming fish and wetlands. While the Corps is finally contracting to remove the dam and other construction features, Senator Bond's riders seek to prevent the Corps from spending any money to deconstruct the project. Congress should abandon this project for good to preserve 75,000 acres of rare backwater habitat and enable the Mississippi River to flow into an undeveloped floodplain, rather than flooding homes and farms. Sen. Bond's anti-environmental riders should be removed during the conference committee.



HOUSE AND SENATE CONFEREES SHOULD REMOVE THE BOND RIDERS FROM THE FINAL ENERGY AND WATER SPENDING BILL