



# 2026 MIDWEST FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT UPDATE

**Col. Aaron Williams  
District Commander  
Date: 18 June 2026**



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# Rock Island District Area of Responsibility



## Legend

- Rock Island District HQ
- USACE Locks and Dams
- Campgrounds
- USA State Boundaries
- RI District Boundary
- Illinois River
- Mississippi River
- Major Rivers

Roughly 78,000 sq. miles  
in portions of:

- Iowa
- Illinois
- Wisconsin
- Minnesota
- Missouri

Portions of 5 river basins:

- Mississippi River
- Illinois River
- Des Moines River
- Iowa-Cedar River
- Rock River



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# Rock Island District Leadership



**Col. Aaron Williams**  
District Commander



**Lt. Col. Matthew Fletcher**  
Deputy District Commander



**Brad Houzenga**  
Deputy District Engineer



**Roger Perk**  
(Outgoing) Chief, Eng. & Construct.



**Heather Anderson**  
(Incoming) Chief, Eng. & Construct.



**Kara Mitvalsky**  
Deputy Chief, Eng. & Construct.



**Thomas Heinold**  
Chief, Operations & Maintenance



**David Reynolds**  
Deputy Chief, Operations & Maint.



**Sarah Jones**  
Chief, Emergency Management



**Matthew Zehr**  
Chief, Regulatory



**Cory Morgan**  
Director, Inland Navigation Design Center



**Nicole Castelein**  
Executive Assistant



# Rock Island District

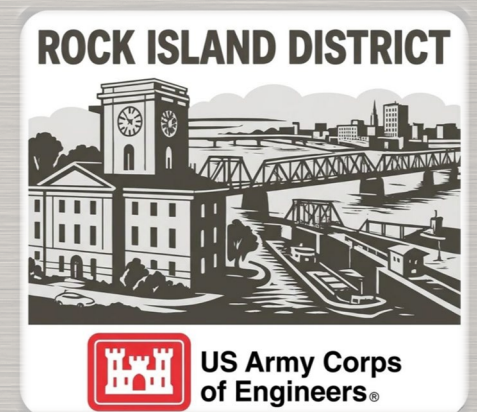
- Emergency Management
- Repairs from Recent High-Water Events
- Levee Safety Program Updates
- Upper Mississippi River Flow Frequency Study Updates (Leo Keller)
- Section 408 Program Updates (Alexis Ryckaert)



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# Emergency Management

- Maintain Emergency Response Readiness
- Complete Ongoing Rehabilitation Projects
- Assess 2026 Flood Damages and Expedite Repairs
- Build Strong Partnerships and Maintain PL 84-99 Eligibility



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# Repairs from Recent High-Water Events

## 2023-2024 Flood

Design: 3

Solicitation/Construction: 5

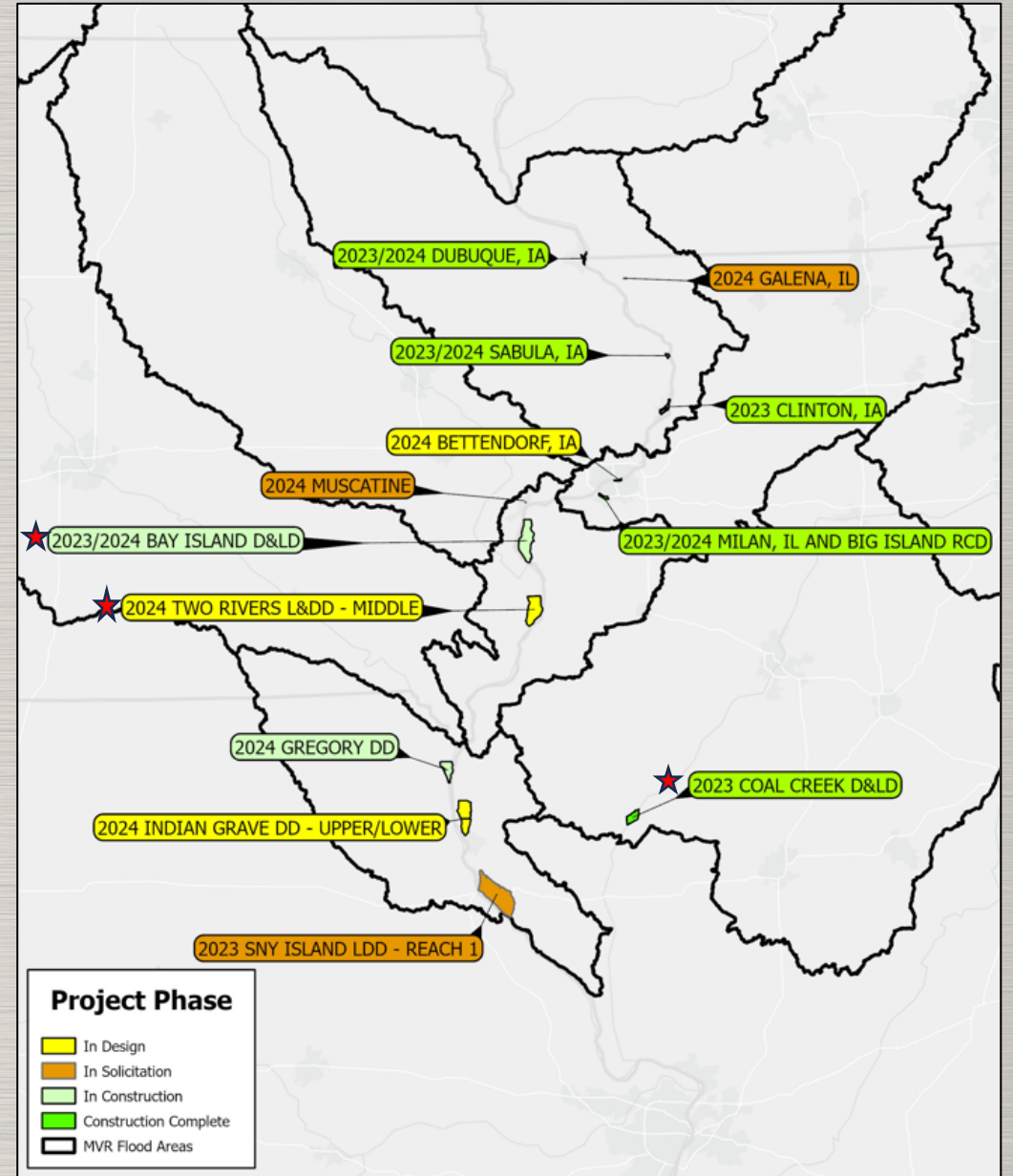
Complete: 5

## ★ 2026 Flood

Project Information Report: 3 requests rec'd



Bay Island Drainage & Levee District



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# Levee Safety Program Updates

- EC 1165-2-218 *USACE Levee Safety Program* (2024) is planned to be replaced with an ER
  - No significant changes expected – prompted by expiration of EC
- EM 1110-2-1914 *Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Relief Wells* (1992) was replaced with new version in 2025
  - No significant changes to maintenance requirements – still need to pump test relief wells every 5 years
- Reminder to video inspect pipes over/under/through levees every 5 years – contact USACE about challenges like pipe access



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# Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study Updates

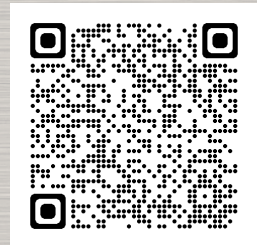
Leo Keller

USACE-St. Paul, Rock Island, and St. Louis Districts

Date: 18 June 2026

Visit the study website:

<https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Flood-Risk-Management/Upper-Mississippi-Flow-Frequency-Study>



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# UMRS Flow Frequency Study Overview



Objective: Improve confidence and reliability of flow frequencies on the UMR and IWW to support flood risk management

planning and communication and the USACE Dam and Levee Safety Programs

Study Area: Birds Point, MO (RM 0.0) to Anoka, MN (RM 864.8) of the Mississippi River, and from Grafton (RM 0.0) to Dresden Island Lock and Dam (RM 271.5) on the Illinois River

Products:

- Regulated and unregulated flow-frequency curves
- Hydraulic profiles along the mainstem of the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers
- Final report and documentation

Potential Future Applications:

- Flood impact analyses
- Flood resiliency alternative evaluations
- Life safety considerations
- Economic impact predictions

**Flow Frequency Chart Retrieval**

**2004 Flow Frequency Study Final Report**

Upper Mississippi River System Flow Frequency Study Final Report  
[Collapse All](#) [Expand All](#)

- Main Report
- App. A - HEC Reports



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- \* The last UMRS FFS was published in 2004 and covered the period of record up through 1998.
- \* UMR significant flooding in 2001, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2018, and 2019.
- \* Illinois River 5 of the 10 highest flood crests have occurred since 1998, including the record crest in 2013.



# UMRS Flow Frequency Update

## HOW WILL IT BE USED



Davenport, Iowa, 30 April 2019

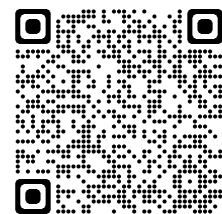
The flow frequency study provides a 25-year extension (1999-2024) of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway (UMR-IWW) observed water flow records that date back to 1898, thus creating a 125-year dataset.

- Coupled with the latest modeling technology and professional expertise this dataset will be used to calculate the most accurate and “probable” river stage elevations across the full spectrum of inflows and probability curves.
- Advanced risk informed planning and decision-making with more accurate predictive modeling to guide future water resource management that serves to protect the lives, livelihoods, and property of those living within the river's floodplains.
- Strengthens partnership efforts seeking to increase the resiliency and reliability of our floodplain culture, infrastructure, and communities under the threat of every increasing frequency, magnitude, and duration of flood events.



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Scan for  
more  
information



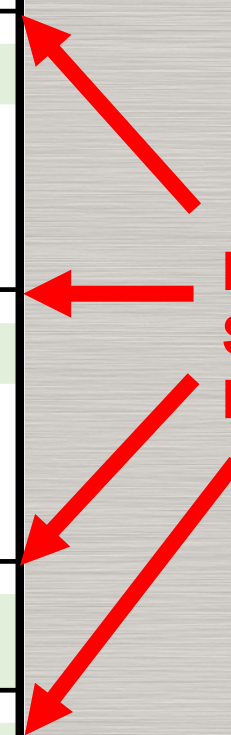
**SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN LATE SUMMER 2028**



# UMRS Flow Frequency Study Completion Schedule

UMR-IWW Flow Frequency Update	Start	Finish
<b>Phase 1</b>	1-Jun-21	18-Apr-25
IA. Data Collection	1-Jun-21	7-Dec-21
IB. Resilience Assessment	1-Jun-21	8-Jan-23
IC. HEMP Development	1-May-24	18-Apr-25
<b>Phase 2</b>	16-Oct-24	15-Sep-26
IIA. Hydraulic Routing Model	16-Oct-24	17-Apr-26
IIB. Homogenous Flow Records	16-Oct-24	8-May-26
IIC. Phase 2 Documentation & Review	8-Apr-26	15-Sep-26
<b>Phase 3</b>	10-Feb-25	26-Jan-28
IIIA. Frequency Analysis	10-Feb-25	20-Oct-26
IIIB. Development of Hydraulic Profiles	18-Aug-26	26-Jan-28
Review	4-Jun-27	16-Jul-27
<b>Resilience Assessment Part II</b>	3-Aug-27	24-Feb-28
<b>Final Report and Reviews</b>	27-Jan-28	28-Aug-28

**Expert and Stakeholder Reviews**



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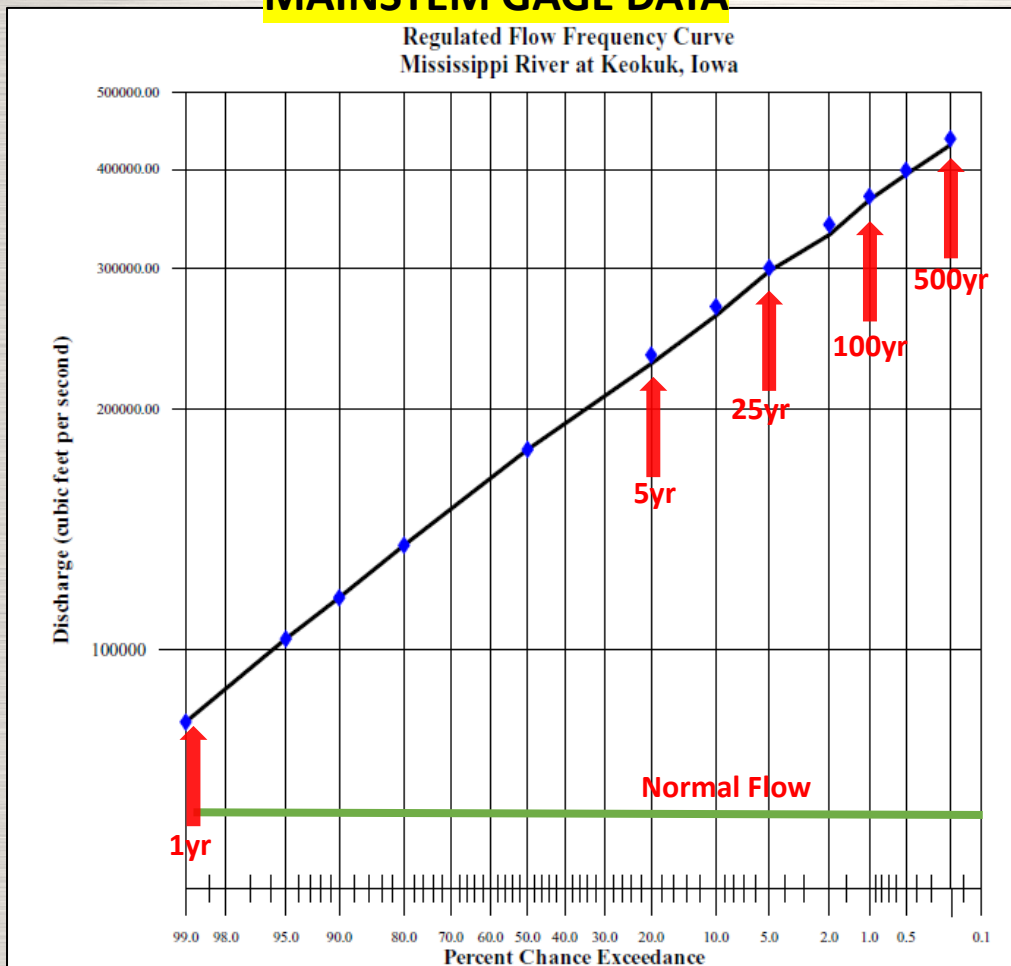


# UMRS Flow Frequency Study

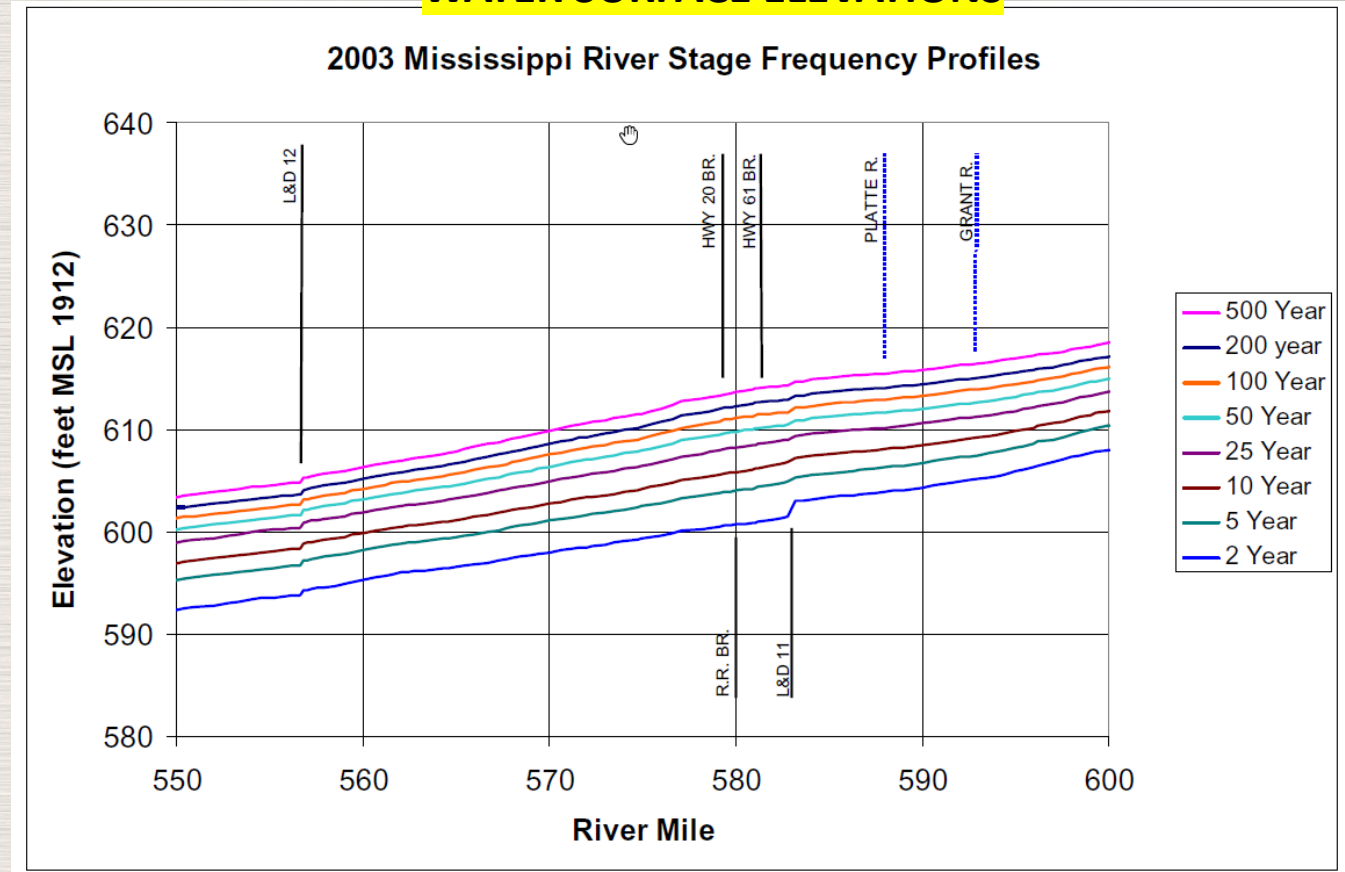
## Details

Flood frequency means the probability of a flood occurrence which is determined from statistical analyses. The frequency of a particular flood event is usually expressed as occurring, on the average, once in a specified number of years or as a percent (%) chance of occurring in any given year.

### MAINSTEM GAGE DATA



### WATER SURFACE ELEVATIONS



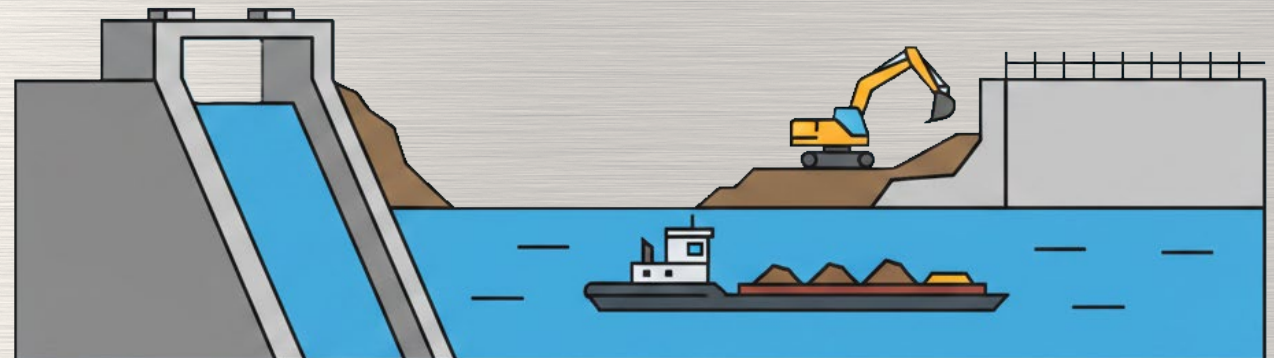
The UMR FRM Hydraulic Model that was developed from 2017-2022 will be used as the base model for developing the hydraulic profiles for this study 12



# Section 408 Program Updates

Alexis Ryckaert  
USACE-Rock Island District

Date: 18 June 2026



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# Section 408 Program Updates

## National Categorical Permissions:

- Memorandum signed by ASA(CW) on 23 February 2026 directs USACE to establish nationwide categorical permissions for Section 408
- Nationwide effort to establish a standardized set of categories for routine, low-risk activities that have minimal potential to impact USACE Civil Works projects.
- Intended to significantly improve the consistency, transparency, and predictability of Section 408 reviews across districts.



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# Questions?



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