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June 23, 2011 - Corps announces levee L550 failure 3/4 mile south of Watson, Mo. #2011MoRivFlood

by US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District on Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 8:30pm

Omaha, Neb. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that at approximately 9:18 pm the local levee sponsor of L550 reported the levee had failed at approximately at 8:45 pm. The failure is located approximately 2 miles downstream of the Nishnabotna River. Also described as straight west and about 3/4 mile south of Watson, Mo., according to Omaha District Chief of Emergency Management Kim Thomas. Emergency management officials have been contacted and residents are being notified. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

The earthen levee, is in the Federal Program (PL84-99) and is operated and maintained by the non-federal sponsor. It was constructed by the Corps in the late 1940s. The PL 84-99 empowers the Corps to assist with immediate state and local efforts by providing supplemental and short-term needs.

A map of levee locations can be found here: http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/op-e/WaterMgt/Mo_River_levee_road_map.pdf.

"People's safety is our number one concern, so we want to stress how important it is for the public to stay off of these levees as we continue to assess the risk," said Omaha District Commander Col. Bob Ruch.

The Corps is in close coordination with the State Emergency Management agencies, officials from the State of Missouri and Nebraska and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region to ensure the safety of all in these areas.

The Corps continues to aggressively monitor and evaluate the inundation areas.

During times of expected high water and flooding, the Corps encourages levee sponsors to carefully monitor their levees and notify the Corps immediately of any concerns.

More information will be sent when available.

For general questions regarding our flood response information efforts, please call (402) 996-3877 or e-mail us at MRJIC@usace.army.mil.

Please follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/OmahaUSACE), (www.facebook.com/OperationMightyMo), Twitter (www.twitter.com/OmahaUSACE), YouTube ([http://www.youtube.com <http://www.youtube.com/OmahaUSACE](http://www.youtube.com/http://www.youtube.com/OmahaUSACE)), and FLICKR (www.flickr.com/OmahaUSACE) for the latest updates regarding our flood response operations.

You can also find flood inundation maps and local emergency management contact information on our social media sites as well as our district Web site at <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/>.

View daily and forecast reservoir and river information on the Water Management section of the Northwestern Division homepage at: <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc>.

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