

Corps Says Dam Improvements Underway

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has finished up inspections of the six dams on the Missouri River. All of the dams had to release record amounts of water in 2011 as the Corp dealt with record levels and historic flooding.

Brigadier General John McMahon, commander of the Corps' Northwest Division, says the recovery and repair process is well underway.

(play audio :21 seconds)

McMahon said there are some critical issues at some of the dams. (play audio :13 seconds)

There were a number of levee breaks downstream from Gavins Point Dam in Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri. McMahon says most of those breaks compromised levees have had at least temporary repairs. (play audio :21 seconds)

McMahon says another issue for the Corps of Engineers will be regaining the trust of the people who live along and near the river.

Nebraska Third District Congressman Adrian Smith wrote a letter to Brigadier General McMahon regarding updating stakeholders along the river.

Congressman Smith encouraged continued public meetings on the current conditions and regulation of mainstream reservoirs. (play audio :42 seconds)

Congressman Smith has also asked for details of the Corps' efforts to review the flood events of 2011 and key findings ascertained regarding management of the Missouri River in 2011, and what steps are being taken in the short- and long-term to avoid such a situation in the future.