

USACE August 2023 Report

1. The hydraulic / cutterhead dredge Goetz completed the Picayune dredging project on 15 August. They are currently setting up at UMRM 690. This project consists of 43K Cu/yds of material.
2. The Government Mechanical Dredge Wade is currently working at Betsy Slough UMRM 732. Once this project is completed, they are moving downriver to Wilds Bend UMRM 730. The project is estimated to be approximately 22K Cu/Yds of material. Currently there are 3 Contract Mechanical Dredges operating. Contract plant 2 is in currently dredging on the MN River at Petersons Bar they are expected to go to Upper Pool 4 next. Contract Plant 1 is in Pool 7 at the Lower Dresbach Island they are expected to move to Pool 8 next. Contract plant 4 (McGregor Lake HREP contractor) continues dredging at Mississippi Gardens in Pool 10. They are expected to be there the rest of the season.
3. Lower Pool 2 Channel Mgmt Project: Phase I is complete and appears to be working as designed as it is scouring the channel. Phase II: Dredging portion; The primary constraint to do the expanded dredging in Lower Pool 2 is placement site capacities. ***No Change***
4. Pool 2 Pigs Eye Lake Project: Contractors request to place granular fill during the fisheries exclusion was approved by the DNR. This will allow the contractor to finish placing granular fill by hydraulic placement early in the year and likely allow them to finish remaining granular fill, fine fill, rock groins and seeding this year. Proposed work plan right now is placing granular fill as soon as water levels allow; duration ~6 weeks. At the end of the fisheries exclusion, the contractor will access dredge to Island 1 and begin placing rip rap and fine fill. Islands will be seeded before demobilizing this fall. Current projection is for willow plantings in spring of 2024. ***No change***
5. McGregor Lake HREP; Contractor started channel dredging on 10-July and continue to place granular in the McGregor Lake project area. Approximately 240Kcuyds is expected to be removed from channel dredge cuts in support of this project. ***No Change***
6. Lock 4: Install auxiliary sheet pile closure. Contractor has mobilized to site to install auxiliary sheet pile closure, construction underway, no impacts to navigation. *** No Change***
7. Lock 8: Install auxiliary sheet pile closure. Contractor has mobilized to site to install auxiliary sheet pile closure, construction underway, no impacts to navigation.
8. Lock and Dam 5: University of MN and Barr Engineering are conducting a feasibility study for a potential invasive carp deterrent, current design is an air screen immediately below downstream miter gates. Some renewed interest for project from MN DNR. The Corps has not been asked to provide any formal feedback with regards to operational impacts. Discussions ongoing. Funding for the construction of the barrier has not been approved.
9. Lock and Dam 7: Project is currently in Phase 1, a 12-month process with targeted conclusion of the ERDC Ship Simulation in January 2024. The objective of Phase 1 is to identify a feasible design alternative that will improve navigation conditions within the LD7 upper approach. Team investigated the upper miter gate structural issues and determined they will be operated in slow speed until new miter gates are installed in 2025 or the issue is resolved. Work continues on sediment modeling to develop options including rock weir modifications for use in a ship simulation. Modeling results are currently undergoing technical review. Discussion continues on vessel configuration options for use in the ship simulation.

10. Lock and Dam 9: Lower bullnose concrete and steel repair: Work paused due to staffing needs on higher priority projects. Work is planned to be completed with future installation of end cell. Work rescheduled to winter 2024-2025. ***No Change***
11. Pool 2 DMMP: Project Delivery Team continues implementation. Work continues on appraisal and real estate. After real estate portion is complete progress is expected to pick up dramatically. Annual quantities dredged in Pool 2 will be sent back for review. Additional efforts continuing pursuit of less than fee alternatives. Currently estimate enough capacity at Pool 2 sites for this FY, and run out of room by next FY. ***No Change***
12. Upper Pool 4 Pierce County Islands 1122 Project: Groundbreaking was held 16-May, well attended by the public. Construction expected to begin this summer, estimated to complete in 3.5 years (summer 2026). Contractor arrived at Reads Landing, expected to start removal of material starting 1st week of September
13. Pool 4 DMMP: A public "Sec 217 Signing Ceremony" was held on 24 JUL at the Eagle Center in Wabasha, Col Swenson and Mayor Durand signed the agreement in front of about 25 people representing the City of Wabasha, the Kohner Company, the Coprs of Engineers and the general public. The Corps continues to work on various other documents in support of the 217 agreement (i.e. Ops Plan, RE License Agreement..etc). It is anticipated that mateiral will begin to move under the 217 agreement this winter from the Wabasha Gravel Pit and next summer from one of the island placement sites. Pipeline A: The contract to install a pipeline from Reads Landing to the COE-owned Wabasha Gravel Pit has been advertised and is anticipated to be awarded by the end of SEP.
14. Pool 5, Rolling Prairie site: Site construction on the 10-ac parcel, which began in fall of '22 (topsoil pulled back, access road construction), is anticipated to be comepleted later this fall, was delayed due to the spring flood and other priorities.
15. Pool 6 DMMP: The District continues to work with Canadian Pacific Railroad and MnDOT to make plans for safety improvements at our Homer West upland placement site; it's hoped the improvements will occur in the fall of '23 but more likely in 2024, awaiting schedule from CP Rail. ***No Change***
16. Pools 9 & 10 DMMPs: The team continues to develop a matrix of placement sites alternatives. Pool 9: Working with Dairyland Power at Genoa for future material placement (coal area capping). Pool 10: District investigating sediment by-pass system for McMillan Island reach. ***No Change***