



# May Branch, Ft Smith, AR

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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**FACT SHEET as of 20 April 2012**

**AUTHORIZATION:** 8 November 2007,  
Section 1001(7) of WRDA 2007

**TYPE OF PROJECT:** Flood Risk  
Management

**PROJECT PHASE:** Preconstruction,  
Engineering & Design



**CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:** Senators Pryor (AR) and Boozman (AR); Representative  
Womack (AR-03)

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** City of Fort Smith, AR

**BACKGROUND:** May Branch flows through a covered conduit within the city limits of Fort Smith into the Arkansas River. Flooding causes an estimated \$1,800,000 in average annual damages. The project would consist of 2.77-mile long open channel to convey flood waters from the May Branch Basin to the Arkansas River. The new channel alignment would require 15 structure relocations, 5 rail and 9 road crossings, and a gated hydraulic control structure at the Fort Smith (Arkansas River) Levee. The project would nearly eliminate the flood damages expected to be caused by a 100-year event. The project was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 based on the Report of the Chief of Engineers dated December 19, 2006, at a total cost of \$30,850,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$15,010,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$15,840,000. The 2.25-mile reach of the channel from the Arkansas River to Grand Avenue satisfy requirements for full Federal participation in cost sharing under current Administration policy. The remaining 0.52 miles of new channel will lie upstream of the limit of Federal interest and will be constructed at 100 percent non-Federal cost. The project would remove 127 structures from the 100-year floodplain, decrease expected annual flood damage by more than 96 percent, reduce highway and railroad traffic interruptions, and decrease the threat of loss of life attendant to flash flooding in urban settings.

**STATUS:** The design agreement with Fort Smith was signed 21 October 2008. Plans and specifications are under development. Congress approved the acceleration of spending of Fort Smith's cash share; the amendment to the design agreement was signed 25 July 2011. The schedule for completing design is dependent upon the receipt of funding. The project is not funded in FY 2012. Once sponsor funds are expended in FY 2012, work on the plans and specifications will be suspended.

**ISSUES:** None.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):**

	<b><u>PED</u></b>
Federal Cost Estimate	\$2,007,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	\$ 769,000
Total Project Cost	\$2,776,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$ 395,000
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	\$ 198,000
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Amount That Could Be Used in FY 2013	\$ 440,000
Balance to Complete	\$1,414,000

**SCHEDULE:**

FY 2012 Scheduled Work: Project is not included in the President's FY 2012 budget.

FY 2013 Budget: Project is not included in the President's FY 2013 budget. Funds in the amount of \$440,000 could be used to complete the plans and specifications.

**COMPLETION:** With optimum funding, the design completion date is 2014.

**For more information** regarding the May Branch project, contact: Ms. Julia A. Smethurst, Project Manager, Planning and Engineering Division at (501) 324-5602 or Julia.A.Smethurst@usace.army.mil.

