

MISSISSIPPI RIVER WATER LEVELS AT SELECTED LOCATIONS December 4, 2008



Water levels are reported at five locations along the Mississippi River – St. Louis, MO; Cape Girardeau, MO; Birds Point, MO; Memphis, TN; and Vicksburg, MS. All of the specified locations are situated on portions of the Mississippi River without locks and dams. Most of the Upper Mississippi, Illinois, and Ohio Rivers have dams that can control water levels and impact gage measurements through water releases. However, this report utilizes measurements from locations without dams. The measurements from such locations are more likely to be affected by naturally occurring fluctuations in precipitation rather than releases through dams.

Water levels (or stages) are measured as gage height in feet above or below a zero level. As a point of reference, historic river levels at the selected locations are reported in the table that follows.

Historic River Levels at Selected Locations (stages in gage height feet)

	Lowest date	Lowest stage	Flood stage	Highest date	Highest stage
St. Louis	1/16/1940	-6.2	30	8/1/1993	49.6
Cape Girardeau	1/15/1909	0.6	32	8/8/1993	48.0
Birds Point	12/14/1937	-2.1	38	9/15/1997	52.5
Memphis	7/10/1988	-10.7	34	2/10/1937	48.7
Vicksburg	2/2/1940	-7.0	43	5/4/1927	56.0

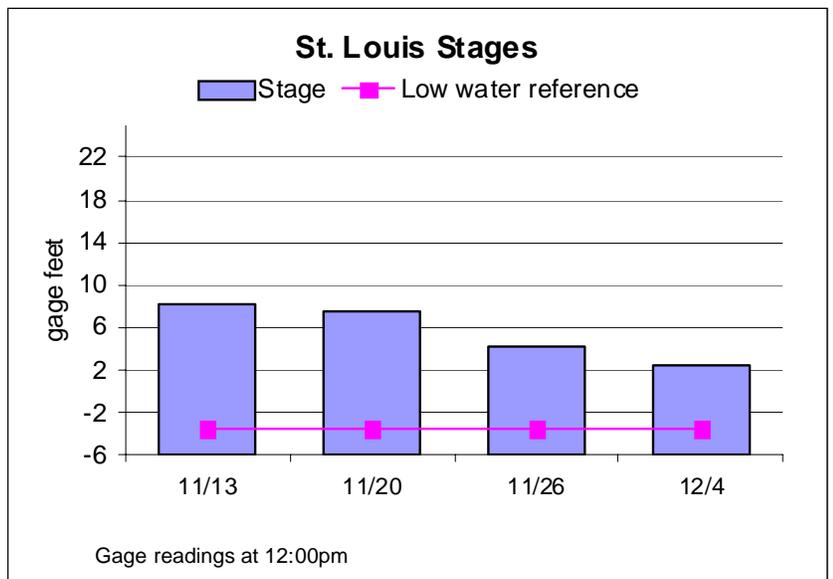
Source: <http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/new/layout.cfm>

In addition, in the bar charts below, for each location a low water reference line is included. This low water mark was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a first threshold for potential traffic problems due to low water. The low water reference is intended as guideline for waterway managers, and threshold stages may vary from event to event. For example, the USACE places restrictions (e.g., depth of draft for barges) on river traffic when the gage at St. Louis declines to -3.5.

Mississippi River at St. Louis, MO

Location: 15 miles downstream from the mouth of the Missouri River and 179.6 miles above the mouth of the Ohio River.

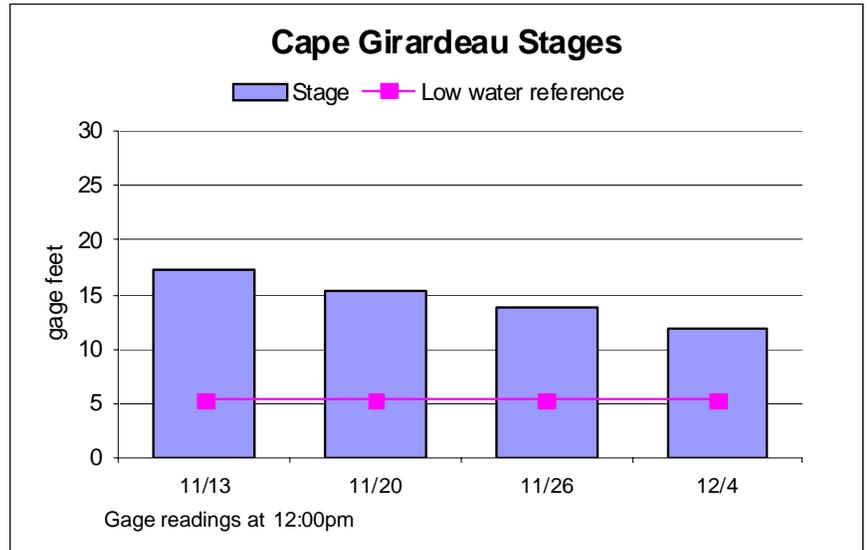
	St. Louis Stage (feet)
11/13/2008	8.17
11/20/2008	7.41
11/26/2008	4.08
12/04/2008	2.48



Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau, MO

Location: 52.1 miles above the mouth of the Ohio River.

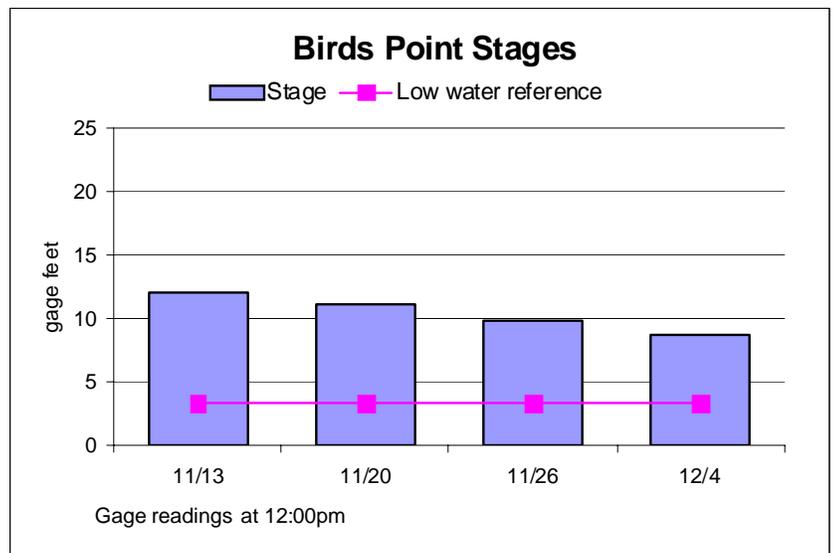
	Cape Girardeau Stage (feet)
11/13/2008	17.22
11/20/2008	15.40
11/26/2008	13.89
12/04/2008	11.86



Mississippi River at Birds Point, MO

Location: 2 miles above the mouth of the Ohio River.

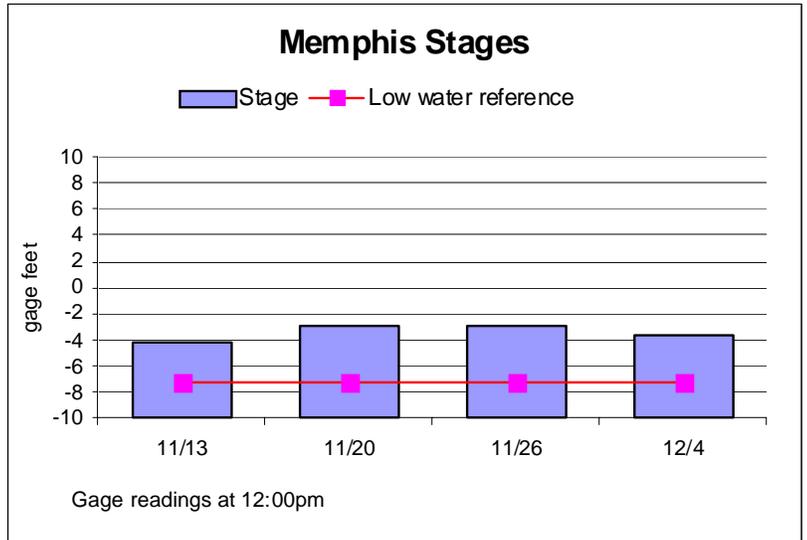
	Birds Point Stage (feet)
11/13/2008	12.00
11/20/2008	11.24
11/26/2008	9.81
12/04/2008	8.69



Mississippi River at Memphis, TN

Location: 640 miles upstream from New Orleans and 400 miles downstream of St. Louis.

	Memphis Stage (feet)
11/13/2008	-4.10
11/20/2008	-3.00
12/04/2008	-3.60



Mississippi River at Vicksburg, MS

Location: 340 miles upstream from New Orleans.

	Vicksburg Stage (feet)
11/13/2008	8.70
11/20/2008	8.23
11/26/2008	7.70
12/04/2008	6.10

