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of Engineers

Baltimore District

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News Release

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Flood protection projects along the Potomac River prevent an estimated \$45 million in flood damage during Hurricane Isabel

Baltimore — Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, estimate that federally built levees and reservoirs on the North and South Branches of Potomac River prevented nearly \$45 million in potential flood damage to homes and businesses during Hurricane Isabel.

This estimate is attributed to the success of three local flood protection projects and two reservoir projects along the North and South Branches of the Potomac. The three local flood protection projects include Cumberland/Ridgeley Local Flood Protection Project in Allegany County, Md., and Mineral County, W.Va., in the North Branch; Petersburg Local Flood Protection Project in Grant County, W.Va.; and Moorefield Local Flood Protection Project in Hardy County, W.Va., both within the South Branch. Each of these levee projects was built by the Corps of Engineers, with the support of local partners, to provide flood protection for their respective communities.

The two reservoirs include Jennings Randolph Lake, which straddles Garrett County, Md., and Mineral County, W.Va.; and Savage River Dam in Garrett County, Md. These projects provide flood protection for communities along the North Branch extending from Luke to Oldtown, Md., where the North and South branches join. The reservoirs also provide minor flood reduction for other communities further down the Potomac River toward Washington, D.C.

The estimates of flood damage reduction, or benefits, are based on projections of flooding and damages that would have occurred had the projects not been constructed. A breakdown of the benefits provided by each project is:

Jennings Randolph Lake	\$27 million
Savage River Dam	\$ 8 million
Cumberland/Ridgeley	\$ 3 million
Petersburg	\$ 4 million
Moorefield	\$ 3 million

Baltimore District operates 14 flood control reservoirs in the Susquehanna River basin in addition to the two in the Potomac River basin. The Corps has also constructed approximately 45 local flood protection levees within the two river basins since the 1930s. In 1997-98, the Corps completed both the Petersburg and Moorefield Local Flood Protection Projects. Earlier this year, work was completed on the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and the Scranton Levee Project (Albright Avenue portion) in Scranton, Pa.

