Written by Josie Cooper
Friday, July 22 2011 15:53

SIOUXLAND---Officials with the U-S Army Corps of Engineers say the Missouri River levees will hold, even though they've been standing against the floodwater nearly 60 days.

A small levee break near Logan in Harrison County this week impacted three homes, but there were no evacuations ordered.

Jud Kneuven, chief of the emergency management branch of Corps' Kansas City office, says the levees were built to withstand the pressure.

The levee system proved itself during the massive flooding in 1993 and while the floodwalls are having to hold back the murky water longer this year, he says they still should be able to keep the water away from homes and property.

While there have been some breaches, Kneuven says the seepage and the sand boils that are forming around the levees are natural.

The Corps is scheduled to slightly back off of water releases from upstream dams at the beginning of August, but he says the Missouri River isn't expected to fall back into its banks until September, at the earliest.

SIOUXLAND---A flood berm that collapsed last month at the Fort Calhoun nuclear station has been replaced.

The Omaha Public Power District said Friday that the berm is keeping Missouri River floodwaters away from the plant.

The 2,000-foot berm collapsed June 26, allowing water to surround the auxiliary and containment buildings.

OPPD has said the berm was an extra protection that wasn't mandated in its flood plan, and federal regulators said the failure caused no threat to the public.

The Fort Calhoun plant was shut down in early April for refueling. OPPD has said the complex will not be reactivated until the flooding subsides.

Flooding remains a concern all along the river because of the massive amounts of water released from upstream reservoirs.

Water is expected to remain high into fall.