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Great Rivers Files Suit Against Federal Emergency Management Agency
Suit Alleges Urban Levee Fails to Meet FEMA's Design Requirements

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Tuesday, December 23, 2008, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center filed suit on behalf of Great Rivers Habitat Alliance against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), alleging that an urban levee in St. Charles County, Missouri, fails to satisfy FEMA's design requirements. The suit was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

FEMA's regulations require that all openings of a levee must be provided with closure devices that are structural parts of the system during operation and designed according to sound engineering practice. The closure plan for two portions of the St. Peters levee calls for sandbagging for protection.

"The National Flood Insurance Program is more than \$17 Billion in debt to the United States Treasury. FEMA cannot afford to revise the flood maps on account of a levee that fails to meet FEMA's own regulations," said Bruce Morrison, an attorney with Great Rivers Environmental Law Center.

The suit is pending in federal court.

Great Rivers is a nonprofit public interest environmental law firm in St. Louis that provides free and reduced-fee legal services to those working to promote preservation of open space, clean energy, clean air and clean water. Its web address is: www.greatriverslaw.org.