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Repairing 2 Area Levees Up to \$67 Million

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) - The cost of two levees that were damaged in the floods of 1993 has nearly \$67 million, and officials say that price tag is likely to go up again before construction begins in two years.

One of the levees would protect St. Joseph, Mo., and the other would protect Elwood and Wathena, Kan., and Rosecrans Memorial Airport.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updated the cost estimates at a meeting with interested parties on Tuesday. Spokesman David Kolarik says the price continues to rise because of changes in the corps' design for the levees.

The St. Joseph News-Press reports the cost estimates of the repairs in 2006 was \$32.7 million.

The levees were damaged in the 1993 floods, which caused massive damage in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.

Associated Press