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Landowners Prepare Lawsuit Over 2011 Flooding

(Associated Press)--Some landowners inundated by Missouri River flooding in 2011 are preparing to sue the federal government.

St. Joseph attorney Ed Murphy says he plans to file a case soon in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. He says plaintiffs could come from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and possibly South Dakota. Murphy noted that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in December that the federal government is not automatically exempt from paying for damage caused by temporary flooding from its dams.

In the summer of 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released massive amounts of water from upstream reservoirs that had been filled with melting snow and heavy rains. The onslaught lasted for more than 100 days, causing extensive damage downstream.

The corps said it couldn't comment on pending litigation.

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